

ALGERS (AFP) — At least 13 people were killed on Wednesday when Algerian security forces stormed a 15-storey building in Algiers where an armed Islamist gang was holed out, witnesses said. Among the dead were an elderly woman, a child and a member of the Algerian security services. The latest toll brought to 17 the number of people known to have been killed in two days of assaults on suspected armed Muslim fundamentalists. Meanwhile, the ousted leadership of Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) on Wednesday condemned the "disgraceful" bomb attack on a cemetery in which four boys were killed. In a handwritten statement released here the FIS said it "attacks and energetically condemns this disgraceful killing and the cowards who carried it out." Earlier, the Washington-based Anwar Hadid, leader of FIS representatives who had won parliamentary elections in the first round of Algeria's aborted legislative poll, said "we hold the regime's security services responsible for such an attack against innocent children." Four children aged 11 to 15 died, and 17 other people were wounded Tuesday when the bomb exploded in the Mostaganem cemetery, 280 kilometres west of Algiers, as they commemorated the 40th anniversary of the start of Algeria's eight-year war of liberation against France.

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## Hollywood Madam steals limelight from Simpson

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sex among the stars stole the limelight from the O.J. Simpson trial here Monday as the actress, the "Madam" from the "Madame" series, became the focus of a new wave of charges of paedophilia and sexual abuse. The actress, who is 35, is accused of having a high school romance with a 17-year-old boy, a charge that has led to a new wave of charges of paedophilia and sexual abuse. The actress, who is 35, is accused of having a high school romance with a 17-year-old boy, a charge that has led to a new wave of charges of paedophilia and sexual abuse. The actress, who is 35, is accused of having a high school romance with a 17-year-old boy, a charge that has led to a new wave of charges of paedophilia and sexual abuse.

## Paraglider circles over the Tokyo Imperial palace

PARIS (AFP) — France on Wednesday admonished Iran, reminding it of its duty to protect the safety of foreign embassies, after a protest outside France's mission in Tehran against a ban on Islamic headscarves in schools. "We reminded the Iranian authorities of their obligations under international conventions concerning diplomatic missions," said foreign ministry spokesman Richard Dugue. During the demonstration in Tehran Monday more than a thousand veiled Iranian women demonstrated outside the French embassy to protest the headscarf ban.

## U.N. warns Aided Mogadishu (AFP) —

The United Nations' special envoy to Somalia accused Wednesday the country's leading warlord of organising a "divine" peace conference likely to lead to fresh bloodshed with excluded factions. Victor Ghebreyesus said in a statement that the "national reconciliation conference" organised in a "unilateral" fashion by Mohammed Farah Aided and running since Tuesday in the Somali capital had come as a surprise to the U.N. Mission in Somalia (UNOSOM). The decision of the 12 factions loyal to General Aided to launch their own forum constituted "a negation of the understanding reached with all concerned factions that invitations to the conference would be extended by UNOSOM to the leaders of the recognised factions." UNOSOM has declined to send a representative to the talks.

## Emile Zola's classic undergoes name change

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army ordered Wednesday the destruction of a monument to Hebron's Jewish community, which fellow Jews are building at a settlement of Kfar Arza, military officials said. Central region commander General Ilan Biran sent the order to the "mayor" of Kfar Arza saying the stone monument was on land under army control. The mayor did not give a deadline for the demolition. The "mayor," Zvi Katover, rejected the order.

## Israeli find antiquities near border

TEL AVIV (R) — Members of an Israeli kibbutz have discovered a line of Roman milestones about 2,400 years old in the Wadi Araba desert. The Israeli antiquities authority said on Wednesday the 26 stones were spaced at intervals of one Roman mile (1,480 metres) and weighed up to 100 kilograms. The stones, some of which stand 1.2 metres high, were discovered by members of a kibbutz in a border area that will revert to Jordanian sovereignty under the terms of the peace accord signed on the border last week. The authority said experts had thought the Romans had not built any roads in the Araba desert. But inscriptions on some of the stones pointed the way to a Roman fort north of Eilat.

## Iraq accuses Kuwait of border violation

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq on Wednesday accused Kuwait of violating its border and committing an act of "aggression" on its territory last week. Official newspapers here said Kuwaiti police had penetrated 500 metres into Iraqi territory on Oct. 25, and opened fire on an Iraqi policeman, Khalid Mahmood, wounding him in the leg. Baghdad protested to the United Nations over the alleged border violation and premeditated Kuwait aggression, "aimed at increasing tension and provoking a pretext for new aggression against Iraq," the papers said.

## France admonishes Iran over protest

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# House panel recommends endorsement of peace treaty

## Opposition parties seek to step up campaign

By Ayman Al Safadi  
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday recommended that the legislature endorse the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty as eight opposition parties announced steps to form an alliance of Islamic and pan-Arab groups to fight it.

President of the Foreign Affairs Committee Abdul Karim Kabariti said the majority of the 23-member panel supported the recommendation to endorse the peace treaty while the three Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies represented on it opposed it. Deputies will begin their debate of the treaty, which the government presented to the House as a draft law early this week, on Saturday and all indications are the majority of lawmakers will support it.

The treaty will go into effect as law after Parliament ratifies it and His Majesty King Hussein signs it. "The committee believes the treaty is the best that could have been achieved in light of what was possible," even though it is not the "ideal accord that we would aspire to," Mr. Kabariti told the Jordan Times.

In its four-day debate of the treaty, the committee did not look at "its work as an attempt to differentiate between those who are with the country and those who are against it because there is no

doubt that we are all with the country and its leadership as evidenced by our presence at Parliament," Mr. Kabariti said.

He said the committee sees in the implementation of the peace treaty the beginning of a new era in which challenges could be greater than those which characterised the era that the treaty will end.

That, he said, calls for abandoning "old methods that never matured and adopting new ones that can enable us to confront the new challenges."

"The trust that the people put in us requires that we take up the new challenges with all the courage that loyalty to the country, its people and leadership dictates," even though the new era would shake off many concepts with which the present generation has lived, said the influential member of the National Democratic Coalition and former minister.

The committee, Mr. Kabariti said, believes that the country cannot stop in the middle of the new road and look back because the only way is to move forward and "capture the future."

Meanwhile, eight political parties announced steps to create "the broadest democratic alliance of Islamic and pan-Arab forces" in order to "confront peace, submission and normalisation."

At a press conference held at the offices of the IAF and headed by secretary general of the Jordan Democratic



Abdul Karim Kabariti

Socialist Party, Issa Mdanar, the opposition groups said they were preparing for a "national popular conference" to organise opposition to peace with Israel. They said the conference could take place within a month.

The eight parties demanded that the government hold a plebiscite "so that people can say their word on the peace treaty and everybody has a chance to express their views."

They demanded that the plebiscite be conducted under the supervision of the judiciary.

The opposition groups reiterated their vow to fight the peace treaty, which the Kingdom signed with Israel Oct. 26, with all available democratic and legal means and called on lawmakers to respect the "wishes of the people" who elected them and reject the treaty.

Describing the accord as "surrender to the conditions of the Zionist occupation," the opposition eight also attacked the treaty for allegedly failing to realise Jordanian rights and abandoning the decisions of the international legitimacy on Jerusalem and refugees.

They reiterated criticism that the accord reduces the issue of Jerusalem to sovereignty over religious shrines and calls for settling refugees and displaced persons in their countries of residence instead of giving them their right to repatriation.

"While announcing our rejection of the treaty, as we rejected the Oslo deal, we demand that the government put an end to its oppressive policies and end its monopoly of the official media because these media belong to the people," the opposition eight said in a statement read out at the beginning of the conference. They claimed the government was encroaching on their democratic right to express opposition to the treaty.

The opposition has claimed the majority of the people oppose peace with Israel but has thus far failed to prove any evidence to its claim.

Asked about the number of their followers whom they said oppose the treaty, spokesmen of the parties at the conference said what counts is their "historic struggle and presence" in the Kingdom.

"Numbers are not the most important thing," Mr. Mdanar said.

# Yeltsin congratulates King, pledges continued support

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday received a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin marking the third anniversary of the launching of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

Mr. Yeltsin said in his message that the conference gave "real impetus to peace" and served as "a turning point for the Israelis and Arabs alike, prompting them towards embarking on peaceful coexistence," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Mr. Yeltsin paid tribute to Arab and Israeli leaders for their courageous steps towards peace and said that the leaders on both sides had expressed determination in directing their potentials towards economic development, Petra said.

The Russian leader also said his country would continue to extend help to all the concerned parties so that they arrive at their final objectives.

King Hussein also received cables from the prime minister of the Netherlands and the president of the Central African Republic congratulating him on the signing of the



Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

King Hussein also received a message from Czech President Havel congratulating him on the signing of the peace treaty and inviting him to visit the Czech Republic.

The message was delivered to the King at the Royal Court by Mr. Alexander Vondra, Czech Republic's first deputy minister of foreign affairs who is currently on a two-day visit to Jordan (see page 3).

King Hussein accepted the invitation and promised to set a date for a visit. King Hussein also voiced

his appreciation to President Havel for his support for the peace treaty.

Mr. Vondra paid tribute to King Hussein's efforts towards peace, stability and security in the Middle East. He stressed that Jordan was playing a key role in the region.

Mr. Vondra also expressed his country's desire to further boost bilateral relations in different fields.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan was present at the meeting along with a Czech delegation accompanying Mr. Vondra on his visit to Jordan.

# Flame and floods claim more than 410 in Egypt

ASSIUT (Agencies) — More than 410 people were killed in southern Egypt on Wednesday, most of them when blazing fuel flooded into a village from a depot struck by lightning in a rainstorm, officials in the southern town of Assiut said.

A health official said hospitals area had received 229 corpses from the stricken village of Dronka and a security source said another 122 corpses were still lying on the ground there. Flooding killed 63 other people, security sources said.

Lightning struck the complex of eight fuel tanks holding 15,000 tonnes of aircraft and motor fuel in the morning after a thunderstorm had raged for at least five hours, an Assiut province official said.

Burning fuel swept through the town on floodwaters. "It was like napalm," said one man named Abdul Mohsen.

He said three of his brothers aged six, eight and 11 were killed when burning

petrol burst into their home. They had been getting ready to go to school.

A woman with burns on her face and her hands said her two young children died in the fire.

More than 200 houses in Dronka were destroyed by blazing waters and at least 20,000 terrified townsfolk crowded onto roads to the provincial capital Assiut city. Thick smoke shrouded Dronka in darkness.

The sources said the storage complex was still on fire at 6 p.m. (1600 GMT) and that a new blaze had started in another storage tank. Firefighters decided to let the fire burn itself out, the sources said.

The governor of Assiut province declared a state of emergency, sending rescue units with tents and blankets for the homeless and army firefighters to try to control the fire.

The governor said it was too early to determine how many people had been killed. People who escaped the in-

ferno said many families were trapped in their homes and that dozens of people were missing, security sources said.

The missing included at least 10 men trapped in a mosque during dawn prayers and a maintenance crew working inside the storage complex.

The fuel tanks are operated by a subsidiary of the state-run Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC).

EGPC officials in Cairo declined to comment on the incident. One said a team of experts was travelling to Assiut to assess the damage to the tanks, which he said were used as a strategic fuel reserve for the defence ministry.

The blaze also destroyed fields in the village and a Christian cemetery.

Meteorologists in Cairo told Reuters the storm was one of the worst in the country's history and said thunderstorms would continue for another 48 hours.

# Assad, Kozyrev hold talks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held talks here Wednesday with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, visiting in a bid to push forward the stalled Syrian-Israeli track of the peace process.

Mr. Kozyrev handed Mr. Assad a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Mr. Assad's press spokesman Gibran Kuriyeh said, without elaborating.

Earlier, Mr. Kozyrev met his Syrian counterpart Farouk Al Sharaa. Officials said they discussed bilateral ties and developments in the peace process, including U.S. President Bill Clinton's regional tour last week.

Russian diplomats told AFP that Mr. Kozyrev was also to raise the issue of Syria's estimated \$10 billion debt to Russia.

Mr. Kozyrev said Moscow is needed in the Middle East peace talks to counterbalance the U.S. role.

Mr. Kozyrev's remarks to reporters here fell in line with Russia's recent assertiveness in the world stage which last month saw him mediating a

solution to the latest Gulf crisis.

"The Middle East peace process will never be balanced or effective without a Russian active role," Mr. Kozyrev declared at the end of his visit to Damascus.

Mr. Kozyrev also noted that there can be no Arab-Israeli peace settlement "without an active role by Syria."

Until the collapse of the Soviet empire in 1991, Moscow was Syria's main ally and arms supplier.

But since then Syria has sought to improve its relations with Washington in hopes of getting increased Western investment and economic assistance.

However, Syria still fears that Washington's stances are tilted in Israel's favour. Syria sided with Washington when it led an alliance fighting Iraq in the 1991 Gulf war as well as last month when Iraq massed troops on the Kuwaiti border.

But Iraq reversed the build-up only after Mr. Kozyrev intervened and travelled to Baghdad to meet Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Sharaa said Damascus was pleased that Russia is "reactivating its role in the peace process."

He added: "Everybody has no doubt that Syria is committed to achieving tangible results."

Mr. Sharaa said Syria wants to see its relations with Russia "strengthened and deepened for the best interest of the two countries on one hand, and for the peace process on the other hand."

Mr. Kozyrev flew in Tuesday from Casablanca, Morocco, where he attended an unprecedented three-day economic summit on the Middle East and North Africa. He was expected to inform the Syrian officials of the results of the forum.

Syria refused to attend the Casablanca conference, arguing that any Arab participation would weaken the economic boycott of Israel.

Mr. Kozyrev is the first Russian foreign minister to visit Syria since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. On arrival, Mr. Kozyrev said "a crucial stage" had been reached in the Syrian-Israeli talks.

# Carbomb kills Islamic leader in Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A carbomb exploded Wednesday on the autonomous Gaza Strip killing a senior figure of the Islamic Jihad organisation, doctors said.

The device went off when Hani Abed, a leader of the fundamentalist group which opposes the peace process and rejects autonomy, got into his car in Khan Yunis town.

Some witnesses said it blew up as he opened the door, others as he fired the ignition. Police said they had begun interviewing witnesses to the killing, which has not been claimed.

"This is a plot by (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin," charged Adel Mahmoud, an Islamic Jihad member.

He (Rabin) has started a war against the intellectuals, not against the real militants. I am sure it's the Israeli in-

telligence that did it," Mr. Rabin swore revenge after a suicide bomber blew up a Tel Aviv bus on Oct. 19 killing himself and 22 others.

However, the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas claimed responsibility for the atrocity.

Abed, who taught science at a technical college where his Peugeot was parked, was held by the Palestinian police for 17 days after fundamentalists murdered two Israeli soldiers in June.

He died in Khan Yunis's Nasser hospital from internal bleeding and trauma several hours after the blast.

Abed, who also manged a weekly paper that started publication two weeks ago, left a widow and three children.

A spokesman for Islamic Jihad who refused to give his name called news agencies to read a statement accusing the

Israeli intelligence services of trying to kill Abed.

"There is no Palestinian group with any interest in assassinating Abed. Only the fingers of the Israeli Mossad are behind it," the statement said.

Abed was also known to have disputes with Hamas as well as with some cousins over land. But there was no claim of responsibility for the bombing.

An Israeli and a Palestinian were injured in separate bomb blasts near Tel Aviv and the West Bank town of Bethlehem Tuesday, police and witnesses said.

A 22-year-old Israeli man was seriously injured in a carbomb blast Tuesday in Kfar Saba, near Tel Aviv, police said.

According to preliminary enquiries, the bombing was a setting of scores rather than an anti-Israeli attack. It was

not known whether the injured man was planting the bomb when it exploded.

A Palestinian man was injured when a bomb exploded in Al Khadr village near Bethlehem in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Witnesses said Yacoub Jafar, 26, was injured in the face and taken to hospital. His injuries were not life-threatening, hospital workers said.

The army sealed off the area and launched an inquiry to find out whether the injured man was carrying the bomb at the time.

The man injured in the bomb blast near Tel Aviv was an army officer, police said.

The explosive charge, which was connected to four gas cylinders, completely wrecked the car. The officer was taken to hospital in Tel Aviv unconscious.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued on page 7)



## Saudis to continue Islamic donations — but no politics

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia, accused by some Arabs of aiding Muslim fundamentalists, Tuesday pledged it will go on channeling financial assistance to Islamic communities around the world — but only if they are strictly non-political.

The pledge was made by Prince Sultan, the defence minister who is third in line to the Saudi throne, after chairing the first session of one of two Islamic councils set up by King Fahd to streamline Islamic activities in the kingdom following an unprecedented crackdown on radicals.

Prince Sultan told the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs that Saudi Arabia "stands firmly against terrorism and all those who practise terrorism under the cloak of Islam when Islam absolves itself from them."

The kingdom, he said, "will not extend any assistance to the parties that practise political activities and try their politicking under the alleged mantle of the Islamic faith while exercising destruction in their societies."

But, he went on, "the kingdom will not spare any effort to extend the hand of assistance to all constructive Islamic societies and minorities in our societies, those who project a good image of the Muslim religion."

He stressed that such assistance must not be construed as intervention in the internal affairs of other countries.

The oil-rich kingdom, which holds Islam's holiest shrines at Mecca and Medina, is the leading state donor and collector of private donations for Islamic causes, communities and societies around the world.

It also leads efforts to spread Islam through building mosques and aiding religious societies among the world's one billion Muslims.

Faced with complaints from allies like Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak

that Muslim fundamentalists are spreading terror in his country aided by donations from Saudi nationals, the government last year sought to channel donations only through state-sponsored Saudi bodies.

The kingdom also established the ministerial council that Prince Sultan now heads as well as the council of Daawa (call) and Guidance in an effort to curb Islamic fundamentalists at home.

"These bodies were formed in early October following a crackdown on scores of so-called agitators, mainly centred in the fundamentalist stronghold of Buraydah, capital of northwestern Al Qassim province."

The government says it still holds 27 leaders, but has released more than 100 other fundamentalists.

Saudi opposition groups, mainly based in London, claim that the roundup of preachers, intellectuals and university teachers is continuing.

The fundamentalists are campaigning for even stricter enforcement of Islamic Sharia in the already puritanical kingdom.

Prince Sultan's council has grouped several key ministers, including those holding the interior, foreign affairs and Islamic affairs portfolios, to coordinate the "activities of several government parties in one body."

The two councils will seek to check the spread of fundamentalism in the kingdom, implement an education reform programme to prevent young Saudis being recruited by extremists, and seek to reconcile the kingdom with governments critical of its adherence to Sharia.

"This council is mandated... to serve Muslims whether Muslim minorities or Muslim countries by sending delegations, preachers, help build mosques, set up schools for learning the Koran," he said.



## Water talks to open in Athens on Saturday

CASABLANCA (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of a working group on water affairs in the multilateral phase of the Arab-Israeli peace process due to open in Athens on Saturday.

Munther Haddadin, chief Jordanian negotiator specialising in water affairs, is heading the Jordanian delegation to the meeting, which is attended by delegates from 40 nations.

In a statement upon departure from Casablanca for Athens, after attending an economic summit in the Moroccan city, Dr. Haddadin said that the delegates in Athens will address topics related to management and protection of water resources, increasing water resources and regional cooperation in water-related affairs.

He said the delegates will discuss the prospect of setting up a water data bank providing water-related information to countries in the Middle East region.

The Athens meeting, he added, will discuss a Jordanian proposal to work out a regional charter for Middle East water resources cooperation.

## Casablanca summit exceeds all expectations

By Julie Bradford  
Agence France Presse

CASABLANCA — A landmark Middle East economic summit ended here Tuesday after exceeding all expectations in pushing forward trade and political links between Israel and Arab states, delegates and organisers said.

"People warned against too high expectations but the forum has gone beyond that," said Bruce Kasdan of the World Economic Forum, which organised the conference.

"Even the Saudi Arabians said they were in favour of peace while they were here — and yet they are outside the peace process."

Israeli businessmen and politicians were jubilant after a conference which saw them meet up with all Arab delegations.

Politicians left confident that high-level meetings with Gulf Arab representatives would result in official ties in coming weeks, while executives were delighted to find a way into the profitable Gulf market.

"This forum was a big happening," said Israeli Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tzur.

"There has been a psychological breakthrough, shown by the talks I had with representatives from Saudi Arabia, Dubai and Qatar."

"Our aim now is to sell fresh food products to Gulf countries, because it is a market of several dozens of millions of dollars," Mr. Tzur said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the closing ceremony: "Participants here introduced a new morning into a region covered in clouds. It will continue to shine in the future."

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said he was delighted to have met ministers from Qatar, Tunisia and Indonesia.

The final Casablanca declaration pledged to explore ways to "overcome, as soon as possible, obstacles including boycotts and all barriers to trade and investment."

It "noted favourably" the decision by the Gulf Cooperation Council to ease the economic boycott on Israel, imposed by the Arab League in 1951.

A committee of experts is to study plans for a Middle East development bank and report back in six months, while a regional tourism board and chamber of commerce are to be created.

Uri S. Director general of the Israeli Ministry of Trade, said the institutions marked the Casablanca summit out as "the economic equivalent of Madrid."

The Middle East peace process was launched at the 1991 Madrid conference, sponsored by the United States and Russia.

The Casablanca forum also represented the "unofficial funeral of the boycott," Mr. Savir said. "Arabs have realised that by boycotting Israel, they are boycotting themselves."

Businessmen appeared to have already forgotten about the boycott. Danny Gillerman, head of the Israeli chambers of commerce, said he and his Qatari counterpart had agreed to meet again soon.

Yoram Blizovsky, a leading Israeli industrialist, said he had been "very nicely surprised" by the forum.

Executives had "talked real business" and joint Israeli-Arab companies were on the way.

A Qatari businessman said he and his colleagues were interested in projects Israel had to offer, and believed the end of the boycott was simply an official announcement away.

A Gulf diplomat said meetings had "broken down the walls of hate."

Billions of dollars' worth of ambitious projects were discussed during the conference, including the Jordan Valley development plan, oil pipelines and thousands of kilometres of roads linking Arab states.

But many delegates admitted that Middle East politics had swamped the economic side of the forum — right from the opening day Sunday, when a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat attracted world attention.

Hisham Awartani, a Palestinian economic expert, said: "The conference was intended in the first place to serve businessmen."

"It was intended to fulfil a political agenda, mainly for the Israelis," said the professor from Nabul University on the occupied West Bank.

"That agenda was to get the Arab boycott lifted and there was a lot of arm-twisting went on during meetings between Israelis and Arabs."

During the conference Mr. Arafat announced the creation of a port and free trade zone in Gaza, and Palestinians said they had raised \$1 billion in investment.

The final declaration said it was important that Israel did not close off Palestinian territories and recognised the "urgent need" for economic development there.

Israel closed off the Gaza Strip and West Bank on October 19 after an Islamic militant blew up a Tel Aviv bus, killing 23 people.

Dr. Awartani said he believed the international community had simply paid the Palestinian delegation lip service.

There were still no promises from the World Bank to unblock international aid pledged to the Palestinians, he said.

"Yet it is very politicised part of the world and if the World Bank does not play a fair role then everyone will be in trouble."

## Ciller embarks on Mideast trade tour

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish Premier Tansu Ciller embarks on a five-day Mideast tour Thursday at the head of a 200-strong delegation of ministers and business leaders eager to drum up trade for Turkish firms in the region.

Ms. Ciller's trip to Israel, the first by a Turkish prime minister, will be followed by visits to the autonomous Gaza Strip and Egypt.

She will be accompanied by a vast army of businessmen and officials, including the foreign, urban affairs, energy, transport, agriculture and culture ministers and the governor of Turkey's central bank.

Some 70 businessmen are included on the trip, with Turkey ideally placed to take advantage of the trade opportunities in the region, according to diplomatic sources here.

Israeli Ambassador David Granit said his country also wanted Turkey to play a more active role in the Middle East: "We would like Turkey to be much more involved in the political regional side of things."

There was "an excellent opportunity for moderate countries like Turkey to widen the scope of their dialogue and cooperation with us," he added.

Eitan Naeh, spokesman for the Israeli embassy in Ankara, said: "The prime minister of a big Muslim neighbour is coming with a delegation of 200 people. For us, it's very important."

"Turkey is the only Muslim country with which we have a relationship at that level... haven't yet utilised... the potential of the relationship, and in view of the Middle East peace process, this is an opportunity," he said.

On the Israeli leg of the trip starting Thursday, Ms. Ciller will meet Israeli President Ezer Weizman, her opposite number Yitzhak



Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The trip is expected to be less than a "big project," Israeli officials said. Israel, Jordan and Palestinians in the newly autonomous Gaza Strip are keen to buy water from Turkey, and an ambitious pipeline project to the region will feature prominently in discussions.

Ankara is also anxious to develop the East Mediterranean Tourism Association created with Israel and Egypt last November, and construction projects in northern Gaza, notably a highway linking the region to major European motorways.

Ms. Ciller will make a big visit to Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza on Sunday before heading for Cairo to talk with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Egyptian Ambassador Anwar El-Sayid said transportation and encouraging investment would dominate the agenda.

Ms. Ciller is to return to Turkey on Monday.

"Turkey is a very important Muslim country of the region. It is also secular... cooperation is necessary for the strategic interests of both countries," Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told Turkey's Hürriyet newspaper.

Israel wants Turkish participation in development projects in China where they have strong ties.

Ms. Ciller, during a Middle East economic summit in Morocco, said on Monday that Turkey was willing to consider ways in which surplus fresh water could be used in the arid Middle East.



## Tech business co joint projects

Abdel Salam Marashli, head of the Arab League, said that his country was keen to develop joint projects with Israel and Egypt, notably a highway linking the region to major European motorways.

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## Shatila camp epitomises Palestinian refugees' plight in Lebanon

By Mariam M. Shahin

SHATILA — The population of the Shatila refugee camp in the centre of Beirut is 5,000. It is a place where the war-torn Lebanese capital has ruled out the continued existence of camps.

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those who stayed behind. With the exception of a few lucky Palestinian refugees who were given visas to countries like Sweden, Denmark and other Northern European nations, most who were not killed in one of the many wars stayed here in this half-destroyed town.

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Palestinian refugees in Lebanon number anywhere from 200,000 to 800,000. "This is really a political statement to say that there may be as many as 800,000 Palestinians in Lebanon. The Lebanese will hit the roof if they hear this," said a senior UNRWA official speaking on condition of anonymity.

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country wants more refugees. Citizenship for most is not an option although a few, mostly Christians and wealthy Muslims, were able to buy Lebanese nationality.

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they are — refugees." All the people in Shatila, as all the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, are exiles from the parts of Palestine that became Israel in 1948. They came from cities like Haifa, Acre, Safad, Beisan and Jaffa. Most of the Palestinians in Lebanon today were born in Lebanon, however, and have never seen Palestine except on a map or in pictures. Most speak with a Lebanese accent and identify themselves as being from Shatila camp or Tel Zaatar camp or whichever of the 15 original refugee camps their parents helped found.

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to enter. Camp residents have refugee ID's and are not allowed to work or live outside camp premises without special permission from the Lebanese authorities.

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survival is a major preoccupation for people in the camps. Schooling, housing and the lack of work permits are the main problems that Palestinians in Lebanon face. U.N.-sponsored schooling through UNRWA is scaling down and the Lebanese government has banned Palestinian refugee children from attending Lebanese public schools.

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He reiterated that Lebanon would under no circumstances naturalise the Palestinian refugees who were born in Lebanon during the last 47 years.

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HOME NEWS

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JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
1:00	Film "Paris Minuit"
1:30	News in French
1:45	Planet in Equinox
1:50	News in Hebrew
2:00	News in Arabic
2:30	My Secret Identity
2:10	Snowy River
2:50	News in English
3:20	Feature Film: "To Touch a Star"
23:00	Never the Twin
PRAYER TIMES	
1:00	Fajr
1:15	Sunrise/Dhuhr
4:23	Asr
6:30	Maghreb
18:00	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810740	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 632785	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terresanta Church Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 632785	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assiout International Church Tel. 625226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624528	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 624195	
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
A depression will affect the Kingdom, thus clouds will build up and temperatures will drop. Rain is expected to fall and winds will be southerly active. In Amman, it will be dusty and cloudy with winds easterly active becoming southerly active and seas rough.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	14/22
Aqaba	22/31
Desert	13/23
Jordan Valley	20/30
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24, Aqaba 34, Humidity	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Amman 46 per cent.	Aqaba 83 per cent.
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Hanna Mansour	750197
Dr. Farouq Nour	786680
Dr. Saif Zaidoun	889885
Dr. Jihad Zaidoun	881148
Fina pharmacy	661912







## King tells tourists to avoid Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's head of state warned tourists to avoid his country as the bodies of three Western hostages killed by Khmer Rouge rebels were recovered, bound and shot, from graves found near a southern rebel base Wednesday.

King Norodom Sihanouk, saying Cambodia is "clearly insecure", joined foreign embassies in advising tourists to avoid Cambodia, shortly before the bodies were recovered at Vine Mountain, 150 kilometres south of Phnom Penh.

"I condemn with the greatest severity the contemptible and unpardonable murderers who are responsible for the deaths of these three young gentlemen," King Sihanouk said in a statement dated Tuesday and issued to Reuters Wednesday morning.

Briton Mark Slater, 28, Frenchman Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, and Australian David Wilson, 29, were taken hostage by the Khmer Rouge in a train ambush in southern Cambodia last July 26.

They and three ethnic Vietnamese and an unknown number of Cambodians were marched to nearby Vine Mountain at gunpoint. The three Vietnamese and two Cambodians are also said to have been executed.

The bodies of the Western hostages were being taken to Phnom Penh in wooden coffins Wednesday night. Their deaths had been confirmed by the Cambodian government Tuesday.

Information Minister Ieng Mouly said Wednesday the Westerners' bodies were found in three graves, about one kilometre from the Vine Mountain base once held by Khmer Rouge General Noun Paet.

Gen. Paet, said to have ordered their execution in September, escaped the base after it was overrun by troops last week.

A senior Cambodian army officer said Wednesday that the Westerners' bodies were bound with rope and had been shot at close range.

Embassy officials from Australia, France and Britain,

travelling in armoured cars, visited the graves Wednesday to help identify the badly decomposed bodies.

The Cambodian government has said the bodies are certainly the Westerners' remains, but Australian ambassador To Phnom Penh Tony Kevin said forensic tests needed to be performed in the capital to put the identities beyond doubt.

The deaths were Cambodia's second tragedy involving Western hostages this year — the remains of an Australian and two British hostages were found in September — and evoked angry reactions from inside and outside the country.

"Permit me finally to advise Westerners and others to avoid travelling to Cambodia, because my country is in a state of war and is clearly insecure," King Sihanouk said.

The U.S. embassy in Phnom Penh condemned what it called the "brutal murder by the Khmer Rouge of three innocent tourists".

Mr. Sin Song, escaped house arrest in Phnom Penh on Sept. 3. Last week a military court in the Cambodian capital sentenced him in absentia to 20 years jail for his role in an attempted coup on July 2.



Undated picture taken from a TV screen on CNN of two of three hostages held by the Khmer Rouge, British Mark Slater (2nd left) and French Jean Michel Braquet (2nd right) Cambodian government troops located the graves of the three hostages (AFP photo)

## Alleged Pakistani remanded after kidnapping in India

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — An alleged Pakistani kingpin of the kidnap of four Western tourists just freed in India was remanded in police custody for two weeks Wednesday, charged under anti-terrorist laws.

The only time the strongly-built, bearded man, described as a "hard nut" by a senior police officer, spoke was when asked if his name was Mohammad Nazir Khan, he said "yes".

The man was arrested late Monday in Delhi and gave his name then as Saifullah Khan, said the senior policeman, who asked not to be identified.

"From the sequence of events, we believe he is from Karachi, Pakistan, and had taken training in terrorist activities in Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and in Kabul," the policeman said.

Mr. Khan faces a maximum of 10 years in jail if convicted for the kidnappings of one American and three British tourists.

Meanwhile, a top Kashmiri Muslim separatist leader has offered to end the bloody insurgency in Kashmir if India provides concrete assurances it will hold a plebiscite on the future of the disputed northern state.

"If India at this point of time assures the international community that it will hold a plebiscite in Kashmir, we are willing to give up arms," Shabir Ahmad Shah was quoted as saying in the state summer capital Srinagar.

The Press Trust of India said Mr. Shah, who was released from prison last month, made the remarks during a meeting Tuesday with Danish Captain Kurt Mikkelsen, the head of the U.N. Observers Group in Srinagar.

Mr. Shah said New Delhi had ignored the "full-throated slogans for a plebiscite" of the Kashmiri people, forcing an armed struggle to end Indian rule over Kashmir, the only Muslim major-

## China's Li plots Korean peace moves with Kim

SEOUL (R) — Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng, rounding off the political element of his historic five-day South Korean visit, agreed with President Kim Young-Sam Wednesday to work together for inter-Korean peace.

Mr. Li, the most senior Communist Chinese official to visit South Korea, also won a \$3 billion investment promise from the Samsung group, one of South Korea's biggest conglomerates. The amount is equal to all the investment South Korean firms so far have committed to China.

Mr. Kim and Mr. Li, meeting for breakfast at the presidential Blue House, agreed that greater understanding and cooperation was vital for regional peace, a Kim spokesman said.

"The two leaders extensively discussed the problem of South and North Korea, and matters related to economic cooperation," the spokesman said.

China is Stalinist North Korea's only remaining major ally. South Korea hopes for support from China, which goes to great lengths to treat the two cold war foes even-handedly in order to reduce tensions on the Korean peninsula.

The spokesman said China and South Korea would work for peace on the peninsula by helping the North keep its

part of a nuclear deal with the United States.

The North Tuesday said it had halted construction of two controversial graphite-moderated reactors in line with the deal it signed with Washington in Geneva last month.

Under the accord, the United States said it would assemble an international consortium to finance the \$4-billion construction of one 2,000-megawatt or two 1,000-megawatt light-water reactors, which do not produce weapons-grade plutonium.

The agreement has eased North-South tensions, but there are no signs yet of a resumption of high-level inter-Korean talks, which Washington also made a condition for further progress with Pyongyang.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen also held talks on the Korean nuclear issue Wednesday with his Seoul counterpart Han Sung-Joo.

"Without reconciliation between South and North Korea and dialogue between the two countries, the nuclear issue and other problems will not be resolved smoothly," Mr. Qian was quoted by a Seoul Foreign Ministry spokesman as telling Mr. Han.

Mr. Han asked Mr. Qian to persuade North Korea to resume North-South dialogue as early as possible, he said.

## IAEA meeting on nuclear safety opens

VIENNA (R) — Experts on nuclear safety from 35 countries began a two-day meeting in Vienna Wednesday to discuss ways of tightening protection of nuclear materials and to prevent their illegal trafficking.

The meeting, organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), is aimed at producing a set of recommendations on which role the U.N. agency can play to help halt the tide of nuclear smuggling, an IAEA spokesman said.

"The subjects under discussion are ways of strengthening international conventions on the protection of nuclear materials, helping with the training of people responsible for their protection, increase the role of the IAEA in battling the problem and the incorporation of the IAEA laboratory in the analysis of confiscated materials," IAEA spokesman David Kyd told Reuters.

NATO and the European Union have called for urgent action to halt smuggling with nuclear materials and the subject was discussed at the summit of the G-7 leading industrialised nations in July.

The IAEA meeting follows a resolution from the agency's general conference of last September.

"The general conference recognised that this is a problem and that the agency should come up with suggestions as to what role it should play to stop nuclear smuggling," Mr. Kyd said.

Conventions on the protection of nuclear materials already exist, but the main problem is training people and ensuring safety at ground level.

"It is not that the texts are not there, but it is the ability to monitor their actual implementation," Mr. Kyd said.

## Dublin welcomes U.S. aid for N. Ireland

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds Wednesday welcomed a U.S. aid package for Northern Ireland and border areas as a boost for peace.

"The new package will certainly be welcomed in the places that have been devastated by the violence over the past 25 years," Mr. Reynolds told Irish Radio.

He was commenting on reports that U.S. President Bill Clinton unveiled a \$10 million increase in Washington's contribution to an international fund for Ireland over the next two years.

Mr. Clinton will also host a White House conference for trade and investment for Ireland in Philadelphia next April and will send Commerce Secretary Ron Brown to a British-organised conference in Belfast next month, the reports said.

The two conferences are meant to attract more private investment to Northern Ireland and border areas to capitalise on a skilled and ready work force and good infrastructure.

The Irish Times said it was the most "far reaching engagement by Washington in the economy and political life of any West European nation since the end of World War II."

Reynolds said he was "delighted that Northern Ireland was still at the top of the agenda of the American president."

Mr. Clinton has thrown his weight behind Anglo-Irish peace moves since the Irish Republican Army (IRA) called a halt to its 25-year war against British rule of Northern Ireland on Sept. 1, ushering in the first real peace for decades.

"Gerry Adams, president of the IRA's political wing, Stan Fein, also welcomed the package and said he was 'confident that the potential for further U.S. investment is probably greater now than at any time in recent history.'"

U.S. financial backing is seen as crucial to Anglo-Irish plans to break down barriers between the Protestant majority and Catholic minority in Northern Ireland and to blur the border between the British province and the Irish Republic.

The 40 per cent Catholic minority has long complained of discrimination at the hands of Protestants and says the majority faith has a stranglehold on most good job opportunities.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said in a statement that the package "should help us in ensuring there is a peace dividend resulting from what has happened over the last number of months."

"It will also hopefully deter people from having thoughts of turning back to violence."

Unemployment in Northern Ireland is running in excess of 13 per cent and Irish and British officials fear the peace dividend may, ironically, swell dole queues because it will cut into the industry that has grown around security and construction.

The province receives huge subsidies from the London government, costs at least £2 billion (\$3 billion) a year to police with soldiers and the local constabulary, and has a heavily state-weighted economy.

## Clinton defends gun control after shooting

DETROIT, Michigan (AFP) — President Bill Clinton said Tuesday that he felt safe at the White House despite a shooting incident over the weekend, but said the attack underscored the need for gun control.

In a radio interview in Detroit, Mr. Clinton said the Secret Service was doing a good job of protecting him and his family despite two dramatic recent security breaches.

Former serviceman Francisco Martin Duran fired 20 to 30 shots at the presidential residence Saturday but was subdued by tourists and arrested. He has been charged with four felonies. No one was hurt in the attack.

In Washington, Mr. Duran refused to undergo a pretrial mental evaluation after his lawyer Leigh Kenny began filing motions to try to avoid one. Mr. Kenny filed an emergency motion to U.S. magistrate Deborah Robinson asking to delay the evaluation until after the pretrial hearing.

But Ms. Robinson denied the delay, and Mr. Kenny immediately appealed to U.S. District Court Judge John Garrett Penn, who also

denied it.

Prosecutors suggested the exam would be completed Wednesday and would be available for a preliminary scheduled later the same day.

Evidence that the gunman had intended to kill President Bill Clinton may lead to new charges of attempted assassination, the Washington Post said Wednesday.

Quoting sources close to the probe, the daily said Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) officials were considering whether to add the more serious charges.

David Mills, who worked with Mr. Duran at the Broadmoor Hotel and Resort in Colorado Springs, Colorado, said in a television interview aired late Tuesday that Mr. Duran told him he planned "to take out the president."

Mr. Mills said he did not take Mr. Duran seriously, but decided to speak to the FBI after he learned of the shooting incident.

Other sources told the Washington Post that a map was found in Mr. Duran's truck, parked several blocks from the White House, with the words "kill the prez" written on it. Other notes found in the truck refer to the occult, the sources added.

## 'Throw the bums out' sentiment prevails in U.S. elections

WASHINGTON (AFP) — American voters are in a foul mood. They are cynical and disillusioned with incumbents as the Nov. 8 congressional elections approach and are ready to toss them out of office.

Pollsters say voter disaffection may fall particularly hard on the Democratic Party of President Bill Clinton which has the most to lose in the mid-term vote.

The Democrats are defending 22 of the 35 Senate seats up for grabs, as well as 256 of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 21 of the 36 gubernatorial seats.

A worried Clinton has been campaigning long and hard for the Democrats to deflect the anti-establishment sentiment and help the party keep control of both the House and Senate.

If the Republicans make the inroads they predict, they would take control of both congressional houses for the first time in 40 years and would be in the governorships of the biggest states.

All of that would make life very difficult for Mr. Clinton in the second half of his term and would make re-election to the White House in 1996 an uphill battle.

The public's distaste for career politicians and Washington in general has been gaining momentum over the last decade and was a factor in Mr. Clinton's own triumphant march from Arkansas to the White House two years ago.

A campaign to clamp term-limits on elected officials has been winning support in the United States. Sixteen states, often with wide majorities, have supported the measure for congressional representatives.

Six other states will ask



U.S. President Bill Clinton (left), Congressman Bob Carr (right) and wife Kate wave to supporters after Mr. Clinton spoke at a rally in Detroit's Cobo Hall. President Clinton was in Detroit to support Michigan's Democrats before the election next week (AFP photo)

voters on Nov. 8 whether to impose limits on the number of consecutive terms an individual can serve. Colorado has already voted to impose a six-term (12-year) limit for representatives and will ask voters whether to further reduce it to three terms.

"We don't need a constitutional amendment to turn people out of office. We already have term limits, and they're called elections."

The Supreme Court will debate the constitutionality of such voter-inspired term limits after the elections, on Nov. 29, and a ruling is expected by early 1995.

Two-term limits on the presidency have been in place since 1951 following the four election victories of Democratic Franklin Delano Roosevelt between 1932-45.

If the limits are accepted nationally, it could have a wide-ranging impact on Congress and its committees where seniority is traditionally decided by the number of years of service.

Paradoxically, it would be

Representative Bob Carr, running for an open Senate seat, had vocally spurned Mr. Clinton during an earlier campaign swing through the state but his tune had changed by Tuesday.

"President Clinton, we welcome you," said Mr. Carr, who is running for the seat held by the retiring Senator Donald Riegle, a Democrat.

"We're proud to watch your leadership bring peace in the Middle East. We're proud to have you in our state," added the prodigal Democrat. "Mr. President, your leadership has made a difference here in Michigan. Our economy is growing and opportunities are expanding."

Mr. Carr is in a tight race with former Republican state party Chairman Spencer Abraham, one of nine close contests that Republicans are hoping to win to gain control of the Senate.

Polls had shown Republican challengers poised to take an unprecedented number of Democratic seats on Nov. 8 but that tide has been turning.

Mr. Clinton's popularity has since risen from the basement to the mid to high 40s on a strong economy with little inflation, foreign policy successes in Haiti and Iraq and the signing of a peace accord between Israel and Jordan.

Mr. Clinton reeled off what he said were the successes of his White House.

"We brought down the deficit that the other party only talked about. We slashed the bureaucracy they only complained about. We cut the regulations that they gagged over but didn't do anything about," Mr. Clinton told the crowd, which was dwarfed by the huge Cobo Hall Convention Centre.

Clinton in demand as popularity rises

President Bill Clinton was suddenly in demand by Democratic candidates a week before the elections.

## French cars disappear in 'Trouville' hunt

TROUVILLE (AFP) — A hunt for stolen French cars in the resort town of Trouville, Normandy, has gained a boost among law enforcement officials as the search for the bodies of three Western hostages killed by Khmer Rouge rebels continues.

Laurent Fabius, French foreign minister, said the search for the bodies of the three Western hostages killed by Khmer Rouge rebels was a top priority.

Searches in the area of Trouville, which is about 100 kilometres from Phnom Penh, have been intensified since the discovery of the bodies of the three Western hostages.

The search for the bodies of the three Western hostages is a top priority for the French government, which has been urging the Cambodian government to speed up the search.

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## Grachev says top Rus

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## Grachev should go, says top Russian MP

MOSCOW (R) — The head of the Defence Committee in Russia's lower house of parliament Wednesday called on Defence Minister Pavel Grachev to resign following the abrupt sacking of his deputy.

Sergei Yushenkov, a member of a political party which supports President Boris Yeltsin, said the Russian leader had been right Tuesday to dismiss Deputy Defence Minister Matvei Burlakov, widely accused of corruption.

"The next logical step should be the voluntary resignation of Grachev. This would follow the code of officers' dignity and would help the moral cleansing of the army," Mr. Yushenkov told reporters in the State Duma lower house of parliament.

Communist deputies in the Duma have long demanded the sacking of Gen. Grachev, whose troops crushed a rebellion by supporters of the old parliament in October 1993, but Mr. Yushenkov's attack was the first from a Yeltsin supporter.

ITAR-TASS news agency, in another sign that Gen. Grachev's problems were increasing, said controversial General Alexander Lebed Wednesday strongly welcomed Gen. Burlakov's removal.

Gen. Lebed, in charge of Russian troops in Moldova, told TASS the sooner the armed forces were morally cleansed "the stronger the army and Russian state will be."

Gen. Lebed, far more popular among middle-level officers than Gen. Grachev, stepped by some as the next defence minister.

Gen. Grachev has championed Gen. Burlakov and persuaded Mr. Yeltsin to create a special job for him in the Defence Ministry last August despite protests from presidential advisers.

Mr. Yeltsin said Gen. Burlakov, accused of involvement in corruption as commander of former Soviet forces in eastern Germany, had been removed to preserve the honour of the Russian Armed Forces.

"This shows civilian control over the military exists and that the president is listening to the opinion of the public and the press," Mr. Yushenkov said.

Gen. Burlakov's sacking came three weeks after Dmitry Kholodov, a young Moscow reporter who had been probing mafia ties with military top brass, was killed by a briefcase bomb.

The killing provoked a storm of accusations that Gen. Grachev and Gen. Burlakov were involved. At the time Mr. Yeltsin defended Gen. Grachev, describing him as one of Russia's best defence chiefs.

But the president is a consummate political operator and would not hesitate to sacrifice Gen. Grachev if he felt he was becoming a liability.

Later this month Gen. Grachev is due to address a duma hearing on corruption in the western group of forces, which Gen. Burlakov headed in Germany until the final troops were withdrawn in August.

"Burlakov's resignation is only part of the problem," Mr. Yushenkov told TASS.

A senior Grachev aide Wednesday told Interfax News Agency that Gen. Burlakov had only been temporarily removed from his post.

Yelena Agapova said Gen. Burlakov had asked to be removed temporarily from his post until the allegations of corruption had been cleared up.

The Russian media have published numerous articles detailing what they say is proof western group officers had been involved in illegal sales of weapons, oil, metals, property and duty free goods.

Mr. Yeltsin signed an order Tuesday cutting his personal staff by a third to prevent duplication of work, Interfax reported.

It quoted Mr. Yeltsin's Chief of Staff Sergei Filatov as confirming there was such an order.

The agency did not say how many jobs would be cut. Mr. Yeltsin's total staff, inside and outside the Kremlin, is estimated to be more than 1,000.

Mr. Yeltsin's opponents, both liberals and former Communists, have strongly criticised him for gathering a large and powerful administration which now occupies several buildings in central Moscow formerly used by the Communist Party.

Last Friday, a day after failing to pass a vote of no confidence in Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's government, the Duma passed a non-binding resolution calling, among other things, for considerable cuts in Mr. Yeltsin's administration.



Russian Deputy Defence Minister General Matvei Burlakov, pictured during a Sept. 1, 1994, standing-down ceremony for his troops, was sacked for alleged corruption by Russian President Boris Yeltsin (AFP photo)

## Angolans advance on Huambo

LUANDA (R) — Angolan government forces, driving hard against UNITA rebels before a ceasefire, will not try to seize the rebel stronghold of Huambo City, a senior government commander was quoted Wednesday as saying.

"We do not intend to take the city, but to get as close as possible," armed forces Brigadier Jose Manuel Jota told the state Jornal De Angola.

The government and National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) rebels initiated a peace pact in Lusaka, Zambia, Monday. UNITA said later it was concerned about a continuing government advance on towns and cities it holds.

UNITA's representative to the United Nations Marcos Samondo told Reuters in a telephone interview Tuesday night Huambo would be strongly defended and the peace talks would be in jeopardy if it fell.

"Our people will put up a very stiff resistance in Huambo," he said. "But if Huambo falls... the whole of Lusaka will go down the drain," he said, referring to nearly a year of negotiations in the Zambian capital which resulted in Monday's signing.

Diplomats in Lusaka said they were dismayed by government drive against Huambo which was threatening to unhinge the accord. "What the government is doing is totally out of context with the international community's efforts to help find peace in Angola," a diplomat told Reuters.

Aid sources in radio contact with foreign staff in Huambo said Tuesday night they thought government forces had reached positions 25 kilometres from the central highlands provincial capital and were within artillery range.

Government aircraft had flown low over Huambo Tuesday but had not bombed it, they said.

Brig. Jota said the government had captured the town of Caala, 20 kilometres southwest of the city in Huambo province, but the aid sources said as of Tuesday night Caala had not fallen.

The chiefs of staff of the two armed forces are expected to meet in the next few days for technical discussions about implementing a ceasefire, due to come into force on Nov. 17, two days after the official signing of a peace agreement.

About 50 foreign aid workers were still in Huambo Tuesday night and it was not known if there were any plans for their evacuation.

Brig. Jota said government forces had expelled UNITA rebels from the north of Huila province, south of

Huambo province, and had reoccupied the town of Chongoroi, southwest of the western coastal city of Benguela.

No other details were available.

State-run media said Tuesday that Soyo, Angola's main on-shore oil port, had been recaptured from UNITA and heavy fighting had taken place around the northwestern town.

Diplomats said they anticipated a surge in fighting as the two sides tried to gain territory before the hoped-for Nov. 17 ceasefire.

A previous peace agreement in May 1991 collapsed 18 months later when UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi refused to accept defeat in U.N.-monitored elections and resumed the bitter civil war which erupted on independence from Portugal in 1975.

## U.N.: No evidence of fraud in Mozambique polls

MAPUTO (R) — The U.N.'s special representative in Mozambique, Aldo Ajello, said Wednesday there was no evidence of fraud in the country's first multi-party elections.

But he said the world body's final verdict would be given only when counting was complete.

"The voting has taken place peacefully, in a well-organised manner marked by very few technical problems," Mr. Ajello told a Maputo news conference.

"The United Nations, through its more than 2,300

international observers, has received no information about any major irregularity, incident or breach of the electoral law, which could have adversely affected the validity of the elections," said Mr. Ajello.

The presidential and parliamentary elections, aimed at consolidating peace after 16 years of civil war, ran from last Thursday to Saturday and official results are expected by mid-November.

The polls, the first since independence from Portugal in 1975, were extended until Saturday after Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the former rebel RENAMO movement, called for a boycott just as voting was about to start.

The RENAMO leader, who said the elections were rigged, later lifted the boycott under intense international pressure.

Only a tiny percentage of the estimated five-million plus votes cast have been counted so far but early unofficial results indicate a clear lead for incumbent President Joaquim Chissano and his ruling FRELIMO party, which says it is winning.

Mr. Ajello Wednesday refused to offer any projection

of the final outcome, but Western diplomats and a senior member of an international observer team, who asked not to be identified, said Mr. Chissano and FRELIMO would win about 55 per cent of the vote and Mr. Dhlakama and his party about 35 per cent.

Without giving the basis for the projections the pollsters said, however, there could be a five per cent margin of error in their calculations.

Mr. Ajello said the U.N. would not support any possible claim of fraud or intimidation.

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## Indian woman was 'just friends' with Charles

LONDON (R) — A mystery Indian woman, whose relationship with Prince Charles caused a frisson of alarm in Buckingham Palace, was quoted Wednesday as saying she shared with him "a great, deep friendship" but nothing more.

Zoe Sallis, 54 and ex-wife of Hollywood film director John Huston, grabbed headlines in Britain after she earned a passing reference in an authorised biography of Prince Charles.

"We had a great, deep friendship nothing more," Ms. Sallis told the Today newspaper after the Prince of Wales was published Tuesday. Asked if she had slept with him, she smiled and shook her head before replying: "No," according to the paper.

The biography has gripped the nation with intimate details of the heir to the throne's life and of the collapse of his marriage to Princess Diana.

Prince Charles and Ms. Sallis, a handmaiden to Ava Gardner in Huston's film The Bible, met at a polo game two years before he met his future wife. They developed a spiritual bond which the palace decided had to end, the book says.

After milking the latest biography for details of Prince Charles's relationships with Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip and Princess Diana, newspapers seized on the two-paragraph reference to Ms. Sallis, who was not named, and set off in pursuit of the mystery woman.

The royal "rampack" press corps swiftly tracked her down and close-up photographs of Ms. Sallis were splashed in most papers.

"We were not lovers, says the prince's showgirl," the Mail said. "I didn't go to bed with Charles," was the headline in today's "just good pals says mystic." "Crazy over gurl," said the Sun, adding: "Charles loved Indian beauty."

"It means a lot to me and I don't want to talk about it," Ms. Sallis said in one of a series of published comments. "If it was something frivolous, that would be okay but it's not."

The prince's royal biographer Jonathan Dimbleby had whetted tabloid editors' appetites by referring to "a young Indian woman" in a chapter on Prince Charles's interest in eastern religions.



Two German policemen aim their weapons where one of the escaped convicts was holed up towards the entrance of the holiday village (AFP photo)

## Last German kidnapper surrenders

DRIEDORF, Germany (AFP) — A 40-hour crime spree that saw hundreds of German police chase and exchange fire with criminals who seized hostages and robbed a bank came to an end with the capture of one kidnapper and the surrender of the other.

Rymond Albert, 32, gave himself up in a forest near this tiny holiday village in Germany, late Tuesday, a spokesman for the police in Giessen state announced.

His accomplice, 35-year-old Gerhard Polak, was arrested several hours earlier close to holiday chalets and a campsite. Police said he had been lying on the ground in a vain bid to hide himself in undergrowth.

But police took their time in running down Albert, nicknamed "the machete murderer" for his part in an armed robbery in which the victim was beheaded. "We all want to stay alive," an officer said.

Albert, who was serving a life sentence when he and Polak broke out of Hamburg's notorious Santa Fu Jail on Oct. 10, had been regarded as the more dangerous of the two.

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The two began their 1,300-kilometre cavalcade early Monday morning when they kidnapped two police officers in Stuttgart, southwestern Germany.

The young policeman and young policewoman, whom they forced to help with a bank robbery at Fulda in Hesse state, were the first of eight hostages the desperadoes took as they sped in hijacked cars through six of Germany's 16 federal states and exchanged shots with police.

They set free their last three hostages early Tuesday near Driedorf where police found that black Mercedes 300 coupe they were using abandoned. After that they continued their flight on foot in the forest and long grass of the Westerwald.

Helicopters, an armoured car and scores of elite anti-terrorist forces were at the scene to capture the pair, who sought refuge in the Driedorf holiday village occupied by about 30 families.

On Tuesday morning police sealed off an area of 10 square kilometres in their hunt, for which they were also using dogs.

The two, who had got away from the bank in Fulda with a booty of some 200,000 marks (\$133,000) mid-morning Monday, first headed east, freeing the two police officers at Suhl, in Thuringia.

Twice more taking hostages, they passed by Weimar and Dresden, entering Saxony and even heading for Berlin at one point, before turning back west again into Thuringia, threatening to blow their hostages and themselves up with a grenade if police came too close.

During Monday night, they briefly stopped near Erfurt under a failed arrangement with police to give first aid to a hostage with gunshot wounds suffered in one of several exchanges of fire with police.

The wounded man was hospitalised together with the elderly couple of hostages the two finally freed early Tuesday.

Police said Polak had two guns, including an automatic weapon, on him when arrested, but a hand grenade in his rucksack was a dummy. He also had money in the haversack from the bank robbery.

## Bosnian Serbs face Muslim assault on town

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. peacekeepers said Wednesday reinforced Bosnian Serb troops were trying to fend off Muslim-led Bosnian government forces attacking a town in northern Bosnia.

Fighting raged around Serb-held Bosanska Krupa and conflicting claims about which side was gaining the upper hand in the northwest a week after the Muslim-led government army launched a major offensive in the region.

The situation at the moment is heavy fighting in the suburbs, but the city has not fallen to the BiH (Bosnian government army) at this stage," said U.N. military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer.

The government claimed it had captured some ground just north of Krupa but a Bosnian Serb commander claimed his forces were turning the Muslims back.

U.N. observers, who asked not to be identified, said Serb reinforcements may have slowed down the Bosnian army push out of the Bihać enclave.

Bosnian Serbs received some help in their fight against the government army from rebel Serb forces in Croatia, which occupy territory adjoining the Bihać enclave.

de zone. The Krajina Serbs Tuesday hit the town of Velika Kladusa, north of Bihać, with nine artillery shells, killing one child, Col. Spicer said.

The rebel Croatian Serbs had mobilised 3,000 troops to help the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) and had massed men and weaponry along the border, the United Nations reported.

U.N. peacekeeping commanders warned the rebels of the Krajina enclave their forces risked attack by NATO warplanes if they took part in the fighting. There was still no evidence that Krajina Serb units had crossed over the border to fight alongside BSA soldiers.

Bosnian Croats said they had joined in the Muslim offensive against the Serbs in the Kupres region in central Bosnia but U.N. peacekeepers had not evidence the Croats were engaged in the fighting.

The U.N. reported the Muslims had seized some high ground above Kupres but were not in a position to seize the town.

The United Nations said both armies traded heavy shelling attacks elsewhere in Bosnia and said government forces had evacuated Muslim civilians near Serb-held

Brcko in possible preparation for a fresh assault on the Serb supply corridor in northern Bosnia.

"What we see is the busing of civilians away from the front line in a southerly direction. That is quite often a precursor to ground action," Gen. Spicer said.

The military situation remained unclear around the Bihać enclave since Serbs refused to let U.N. military observers enter the area.

But a Serb commander on the front near Krupa, Rajko Balac, told Reuters the BSA had "stopped the Muslim offensive and even managed to push them back across the Una River."

It appeared the BSA had evacuated civilians from Krupa to a nearby town, U.N. observers said.

Muslim troops over the past week have captured some 250 square kilometres of Serb-held territory south and east of Bihać. The advance was the most serious defeat so far suffered by Serbs at the hands of the Muslim-led army in nearly 31 months of fighting in Bosnia.

Serb forces have always enjoyed superiority in tanks, artillery and other heavy weapons which has enabled them to take control of 70 per

cent of Bosnia.

The U.N. believes the Serbs are now short of fighting men with their resources stretched by Muslim attacks near Sarajevo and in central Bosnia as well as the northwest.

The Bosnian Serbs have threatened to attack Sarajevo in retaliation for the Muslim offensive and on Tuesday one of the capital's suburbs came under fire for the fourth day in a row.

Police said one person was wounded in the western suburb of Hrasnica when it was hit by two shells Tuesday afternoon, bringing the government's casualty count from shelling in Hrasnica over the past four days to 25 wounded and two dead.

Bosnian Serbs, who surround Sarajevo, have not been responsible for most if not all of the firing.

Col. Spicer said the U.N. Protection Force stood ready to take "military action" to put a stop to the shelling.

The continued shelling and anti-aircraft fire on Hrasnica was "extremely serious business," Col. Spicer said. "We are making attempts to locate the weapons systems if the shelling does not cease or if we locate weapons systems carrying out military action."

## Ghali to chair Abkhazia-Georgia meeting in December

BILISI (AFP) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali Wednesday urged a return of Georgian refugees to breakaway Abkhazia and proposed to chair a meeting of officials from Georgia, Abkhazia and Russia in early December.

Speaking to reporters at the end of his 48-hour visit to Georgia, his first since the republic gained independence three years ago, Dr. Ghali said, "I agree that ways of speeding up the process of normalisation should be considered."

Dr. Ghali said the issue of repatriating the 250,000 Georgians who fled the rebel territory during 13 months of fighting between Georgian government troops and Abkhaz separatist forces — which ended in Georgia's defeat in September 1993 — was the main issue in his talks with Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze and other officials.

Depending on the outcome of scheduled U.N. peace talks between Georgia and Abkhazia in Geneva this

month, Dr. Ghali said, "I consider the possibility of a meeting at the beginning of December where I intend to invite the president of Georgia, a high representative of Russia and Mr. (Vladislav) Ardzinba," the Abkhazian leader.

Georgian officials' hopes of a United Nations peacekeeping force faded further as Dr. Ghali said the deployment of such a force in Georgia's breakaway western region was not being "discussed" by the United Nations Security Council.

Mr. Shevardnadze appeared to confirm this, when he said, "Together with the United Nations, a very special role should also be played in settling this conflict by Russia and the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States)."

Dr. Ghali, who visited Azerbaijan before Georgia, Wednesday left for the Armenian capital Yerevan where he is scheduled to discuss the six-year conflict with Azerbaijan over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

## Royal woes boost Australia's Republican cause

SYDNEY (AFP) — Revelations about the life and loves of Britain's Prince Charles are helping to boost support for Australia's Republican movement, according to a new poll published here Monday.

But it also suggested as long as Queen Elizabeth remains on the throne, the push for an Australian Republic will always meet resistance, supporting a republican view that there are more "Elizabetans" here than monarchists.

The poll, taken on Oct. 26 and published in The Bulletin weekly magazine, showed

support for a republic had risen five per cent since August to 50 per cent, with 36 per cent still uncommitted, compared to 42 per cent opposed and 13 per cent uncommitted in August.

However, 17 per cent of the 503 respondents said the publicity surrounding the private lives of the royal family members had made them more supportive of a republic while 76 per cent said it had made "no difference."

Based on its poll findings, The Bulletin concluded: "The Queen is the glue holding together a monarchy tar-

nished by the sexual shenanigans of her progeny. If she were gone tomorrow... an Australian republic would be hastened."

Australia's push towards a republic has been a topic of hot debate here since Prime Minister Paul Keating announced plans for a referendum to decide if Australia should sever its link to the throne in 2001.

The most recent disclosures about Prince Charles here were in the authorised biography by British journalist Jonathan Dimbleby serialised last month in media tycoon Rupert Murdoch's

newspapers.

Australian Republican Movement chairman, lawyer Malcolm Turnbull said here Wednesday he believed the recent publicity had done "immense damage to the monarchist cause."

Speaking in a radio interview, Mr. Turnbull said he believed more people would realise the monarchy as they realised it was based on a hereditary system rather than on an individual like Queen Elizabeth.

But there was no doubt that support for a republic was increasing, he said.

## Japan Diet passes electoral reform bill

TOKYO (R) — Japan's lower house of parliament Wednesday passed a sweeping electoral reform bill that changes the country's political landscape and gives opposition parties ammunition to step up pressure for an early election.

The bills approved by the 511-seat lower house complete a landmark electoral reform package introduced in January by the reformist Morihiro Hosokawa administration, now in opposition.

The reforms, the first major change of Japan's electoral system since 1925, redraw electoral maps, replacing the current multiple-seat districts with a combination of 300 first-past-the-post seats and 200 proportional representation seats.

To make campaigning cheaper and impose curbs on rampant political corruption, the bills tighten rules on campaign funds and stiffen penalties for violators of funding rules.

Related legislation introduces taxpayer-funded subsidies for political parties with at least five seats in parliament and 2 per cent of the total vote in national elections.

The bills are expected to clear the upper house of parliament by mid-November and be implemented after a mandated one-month period in which the government will familiarise voters with the new system.

During debate on the bills, former Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata led opposition calls

for Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, leader of a three party coalition, to call elections once the reforms were in place, expected by mid-December.

Mr. Hata, who was replaced by Mr. Murayama in June, said an election before the scheduled 1997 date was the only honourable thing for the government to do now there was a new electoral system.

Mr. Murayama replied that he was not willing to "consider dissolving parliament without solving the many foreign and domestic issues the administration faces."

The passage of the bills forces both opposition and ruling camps to accelerate moves to regroup to fight elections.



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## Economic prosperity needs political unity

THE THREE-day economic summit in Casablanca has ended on several upbeat points that aim to create a Middle East-North African common market that would facilitate the easy movement of trade and commerce between the countries of these two regions. The declaration that was adopted at the end of the conference is only the beginning of the road leading to closer economic integration of the states of the two affected regions. There will be a follow up review meeting in Amman by the middle of next year on how to translate the aims and objectives of the Casablanca Declaration into concrete terms, including the funding mechanisms. Jordan is already on the record as endorsing the idea of establishing a regional bank on economic development for the countries of the areas. Other nations, notably Saudi Arabia and other Arab Gulf countries, are clearly concerned that they will end up putting up the necessary funds for the proposed bank. Whatever the case maybe at the end of next year's discussion, the main thing is to create funding institutions by the completion of the peace process not only on the Arab-Israeli front but also on the inter-Arab level.

Admittedly economic forces in other parts of the world have succeeded in overcoming political differences and disputes. In the Arab World, it seems that the opposite is true. We have seen time and again how inter-Arab frictions have precluded economic cooperation between our states. Trade and commerce stopped completely at the first sign of political bickering between two or more Arab capitals. This much needs to be taken into consideration when the promoters of the Casablanca summit take follow-up steps to implement their lofty ideals. What all this boils down to is the fact the Arab house is nowhere near the point where it can put into effect the objectives of the Casablanca conference. As long as Syria and Lebanon, for example, are not fully integrated into the peace process, there can be no justification for euphoria in forging a workable common-market for all the states of the Middle East and North Africa. The same goes for the Jordanian-Palestinian relations. It is hard to envisage a successful regional economic cooperation when the Palestinian economic perspectives and goals appear to be opposed to those of Jordan or even Syria for that matter. This means that there is a lot more to be done before regional economic planning can see the light of day. Besides, as long as the Arab capitals are deeply divided on their priorities and are not on the same wavelength when it comes to overall economic interests, they will continue to be an easy prey not only to Israeli economic designs but also to other manipulations from outside the region.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE GOVERNMENT should not have taken hasty moves and rushed the signing of the peace treaty with Israel before submitting it to Parliament for debate, said a columnist in Al Rai daily. We are unaware whether the move constituted a violation of the Constitution, but for all political considerations, the government ought to have asked Parliament for its views after having initiated the treaty a week earlier, said Hussein Abu Ruman. The government must have realised that the treaty would be endorsed by Parliament, and so it took the move, he said. But what if the deputies do not bless the move after their debate of its provisions? asked the writer. He said the government should now exercise self-restraint and flexibility to its utmost extent during the debate in the House; and ought to open the door for free expression of opinion, on the part of the various political groups. By so doing, the writer said, the government would show respect for the democratic system and help enhance national unity, which is a sacred goal for the nation.

TAHER AL ADWAN, a columnist in Al Dustour, cautioned the Arab countries against being carried away with promises given at the Casablanca conference, saying that there is a great difference between dreams and reality. The projects that might be carried out in the Middle East and North Africa region could only have four sources of finance: the U.S., the Gulf states, Europe and Japan, said the writer. He said the United States could not be counted on in light of its present financial and economic circumstances; the Gulf states, which reluctantly attended the meeting are not in a position to extend aid following their losses in the Gulf war and Europe and Japan are not ready to fund any project unless they ensure a piece of the cake for themselves. As long as the U.S. insists on solely benefiting from any project politically, materially and otherwise, Europe and Japan will not help the region; and their attitude was clear in the case of the unfulfilled promises to the Palestine National Authority, said the writer. The solution, he said, is for the Arabs to open the door for Europe to play a more practical and leading role in their region politically and economically. Otherwise, he said, the projects will remain only ink on paper.

## The View from Academia

# 'Good fences make good neighbours'

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

THE IMPLICATIONS of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty are manifold. Positively, much can be said about the end of the state of war (along with the bloodshed, displacement and suffering that have resulted or may result from it) between the two neighbouring countries, about the happy termination of the paralytic no-peace, no-war condition, about the healthy spirit prevailing since the start of the Wadi Araba negotiations, about the skill, efficiency and speed with which the talks have been brought to a successful conclusion and about the auspicious signs of the days ahead.

One extremely important dimension I wish to highlight here, however, is the demarcation of the borderline. Already, some have addressed certain aspects of it, eloquently and persuasively. But other aspects still need to be dealt with equally effectively. I shall discuss one such crucial aspect here, an aspect which is two-fold.

Since the very beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the borderline issue has been at the heart of the whole Middle East problem. Until recently, Israel, unlike almost all other countries in the world, has been borderless. For decades, this unfortunate fact has caused a great many headaches and has opened a great many cans of worms, especially for the Arab World.

Arabs, from all walks of life, feared the situation tremendously. Many still do. Most scholars writing about the Palestine question (Edward Said is a case in point) and the Middle Eastern dilemma as a whole have highlighted the matter, warning against the threats implied in a "state" with unlimited borders and ambiguous territorial aspirations. For years, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has carried in his pocket a coin which, in his opinion, illustrates clearly Israel's intention to "acquire" lands way beyond its borders. For many years also, Arabs and Muslims — children and adults, women and men, ordinary citizens, scholars, intellectuals, religious figures, media personalities and politicians — have lived with the fear that "Israel's borders are from the Euphrates to the Nile." This has not been mere Israeli motto or slogan, but a frightening reality and a nightmare.

Israel's own rhetoric and acts have contributed immensely to the escalation of fear among the Arabs, of uncertainty about their territorial future and of scepticism with regard to Israel's good intentions. Israeli hardliners as well as moderates have for a long period of time spoken of the "Biblical Israel" or the "Greater Israel." Not only Menachem Begin and the likes of him but also Israeli radio has for years referred to the West Bank as Judea and

Samaria. But Israel's expansionist policies have spoken louder than words. Israel not only confiscated Jordanian land and water and declared Jerusalem its "unified capital" (instead of Tel Aviv) but it also attempted to cross into Jordan in March 1968 and into Egypt and Syria in 1973, annexed the Golan Heights, created the so-called security zone in Lebanese territory, bombed the nuclear reactor in Baghdad, invaded Beirut in 1982 and air-raided the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Tunis.

In other words, at times abruptly and at times slowly Israel was expanding comfortably in nearly all directions — to the east, north and south-west. Under the convenient pretext of security, it could claim any piece of land or geographic feature it sees fit and occupy it overnight. It sense of its border has been as flexible, loose and stretchable, whimsical as it conveniently wants. The point here is how can one feel living next to a neighbouring country who has left its borderline options open?

The Jordanian-Israeli treaty comes at the right moment to put an end to the fear, doubt, suspicion, scepticism, discomfort and anxiety (on part of the Arab World) emanating from the said state of borderlessness and an end to territorial ambiguity, tenuousness, looseness, greed, annexation and expansionism (on part of Israel). For one thing, the agreement spells out in the clearest terms possible that "the boundary, as set out in Annex 1 (a), is the permanent, secure and recognised international boundary between Jordan and Israel" and that "the two parties recognise" the whole "international boundary, including the territorial waters and airspace, as inviolable, and will respect and comply with them." For another, the Jordanian borderline with Israel is the longest in the region, and therefore the most significant. A great many Arab territories, including those of the Euphrates, lie beyond it. The delimitation of the borderline, as stipulated in the treaty, makes it clear for the first time in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and one for all, that this is where Israel's geographic claims end i.e. it cannot and ought not claim any inch east of the line, not now, not in 10 years, not in millennia to come. Case closed.

If Israel is to cross over, it is for noble human purposes, such as tourism, trade, cooperative ventures, intellectual encounters, cultural exchange programmes — with our own permission and volition, of course.

But the demarcation of the borderline is important in another sense. In my opinion, it comes as a blow to many of the exaggerated or false myths, we have allowed ourselves

to harbour, nourish and at times thrive on regarding Israel. The myths, which are part of one larger myth of course, are numberless: That Israel's talk about peace is all nonsense because it does not mean what it says, that Israel will not return to us any piece of land it occupied (which is what many Israeli leaders were saying for years and years), that Israeli negotiators are too smart, too cunning, too elusive, too tricky to deal with.

The larger myth is Zionism. Zionism, we are told (and not only by the Zionists, but by many of our Arab intellectuals, not only in the Arab world, but in the West, Europe and (most recently) Japan. They control international businesses, financial markets and the biggest industries. Zionism is an octopus which has a finger or a hand in every sensitive or vital spot or arena in the world. How come, and this is the point they want to stress in this context, an entity of such calibre and status content and limit itself to a small fraction of the Middle East?

This highly inflated, highly fictionalised mode of thinking (even though it has derived much of its force from past and still present — Israeli rhetoric and irresponsible acts) has harmed us for decades. We have harmed ourselves greatly through believing such fabrication of facts — deliberate or unintentional. Thank God we seem quite unlikely now. However, during the peace era, in which we are supposed to enter into healthy competition with Israel or cooperation (as the case may well be), we ought to see Israel through our realistic eyes. We have to put a speedy end to such myths whose sole aim is to make us look weak and small.

The Jordanian-Israeli treaty (in my mind) already put an end to such myths and such unrealistic perceptions: to put an end to it in the minds of many others, it may require some time. But this is not going to take long. The demarcation of the borderline signifies beyond any doubt the true size and stature of Israel.

Israel is not an octopus, nor is it a superman. It is a small country, with a weak economy and in need to live among welcoming neighbours — despite its distinction in some fields. It needs its neighbours, perhaps more than they need it. For this reason, it needs to mend fences with them, to erect clear-cut walls. Robert Frost is absolutely right, "Good fences make good neighbours." This is a big lesson we learn from the borderline demarcation.

## Ingratitude

IT IS indeed ironic to see certain groups seeking to demonstrate and protest against the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty when they know for sure that opposition to the treaty is legitimate through democratic means and institutions.

In Israel, certain groups opposed the treaty on the ground that it did not discuss the fate of East Jordan, as part of what they consider the lands of the Jewish state. But these Israeli groups did not resort to fiery speeches inside places of worship. Neither did they instigate the public against the state or accuse it of treacherous acts.

Those groups, which oppose the treaty inside or outside Jordan, seem to be of the kind of people who are unable to absorb lessons of the past or understand the givens of the present.

The realities of the present prove that Jordan has not taken a speedy step towards peace. Its move came after the Palestinians had reached a deal with Israel and after the two sides had exchanged recognition, which paved the

ground for them to delve deep into negotiations with the purpose of arriving at a solution for the problem of the Palestinian people to guarantee the fulfilment of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the assertion of their identity and the restoration of their lands.

Was Jordan supposed to wait for the time when it would be playing the role of a lever exercising pressure on others and impeding the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations so that it would be said that the Kingdom never abandoned Arab rights and that it is at the forefront of opponents of the capitulatory solutions?

It was a matter of life and death for Jordan: whether it would be one of the players in the Middle East region or an insignificant entity in the new Middle East equation.

The peace treaty has reassured the Jordanian role and transformed it from one serving as a buffer zone between Israel and

the Arab oil rich states — since it has the longest confrontation line, into a bridge for the formation of a new Middle eastern relationship. In other words, the treaty proved that Jordan's role has not ended and that the Kingdom will continue to exist during the peace time as it did during the past wars.

These are simply the givens of the present. As to the past lessons from which many inside and outside Jordan still refuse to learn, they can be summarised in one single word: Ingratitude.

What is note-worthy here is the fact that all those groups which are trying to instigate the public to rise against the treaty are all indebted for their existence to Jordan, which provided them with protection and served as a haven for them all these years at a time when they were unwanted in most parts of the Arab World.

These groups seem now to have a nostalgia for a repetition of the September

1970 events in Jordan which almost ruined the Palestinians and the Jordanians had the instigators of these events succeeded in their objective of erasing the Jordanian entity.

Had the evil instigators succeeded there would not have been a city like Amman, a capital of a country that successfully experienced two parliamentary elections since 1980 and provided refuge to the displaced Palestinians after their eviction from Kuwait following the mad Iraqi adventure of 1990.

Those groups, which have a nostalgia for the past days of September 1970, are the same who are now trying to outbid others. They believe that ingratitude is a virtue.

Those people should ask themselves one question: Would they be able to do all the shooting and instigation they are doing now without being harmed in a country other than Jordan?

The writer is managing editor of the London-based Al Hayat newspaper. The above is a translation of an article that appeared in that paper.

## Algerian rebels send death from the hills

AN ALMOST cheerful note had crept into the voice of Djaffar, an Islamic guerrilla fighter, as he wound through the Atlas mountains in a stolen Toyota Land Cruiser.

In his black scarf and Ray-Ban sunglasses, he was recounting his various killings as fondly as a holidaymaker reminiscing about a successful fishing trip. Clutching the wheel of the Toyota that he had "liberated" from the police just a few days before, he nonchalantly recalled his most recent "job" — slitting the throat of a local administrator.

"We treat our enemies well," he boasted. "I gave him water and let him pray before I did it."

The reputation for brutality of men such as Djaffar is well earned. Since 1992, when the army stepped in to cancel an election expected to have been won by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Algeria has been gripped by a civil war that is now claiming hundreds of lives a week.

French officials say the fighting matches the intensity of the eight-year Algerian war of independence against France four decades ago.

As European governments watch in alarm, fearing an exodus of refugees across the Mediterranean, entire regions of Algeria are being turned into no-go

areas even for the army.

The government can claim full control only in the cities. Algeria's infrastructure is crumbling; if the oil and gas industries collapse under rebel pressure, the economy could grind to a halt.

The government of President Lamine Zeroul, accused of methods of every bit as brutal as those of the rebels, has imposed a virtual news blackout, so the fighting has gone almost unreported. Foreign journalists have decamped from the capital and their Algerian counterparts are being murdered regularly for what they write.

Foreigners are now top of the rebels' hit list. Nearly 70 have been murdered in the year since the militants issued an ultimatum to all non-Algerians to leave.

Two Spanish nuns joined the grim toll last week. "We warned the foreigners to leave," said Oussama, a former mayor turned commander. "Why did they stay?"

We accept the consequences of our deeds. Whoever supports the regime is against us. It would have been better if foreign governments had called back their nationals instead of supporting this regime with money.

"Why are your governments supporting this regime? You always talk about

democracy. Well, we were elected democrats. Yet you don't support us."

Although the rebels are fighting for the creation of an Islamic republic faithful to the tenets of the Koran, Oussama denied that an Islamic government would shut off the country.

"We can do business with the West. Why shouldn't we? We've grown up in a French culture. We know how Westerners think."

Oussama is a commander in the Army of Islamic Salvation, the main militant group, in the Atlas mountains near the town of Chlef. In huts scattered across a hillside, some 100 of his men lounged around awaiting orders.

They seemed unperturbed over the prospect of being hunted down by the army, even though most of them were armed only with shotguns. The rebels insisted they also had artillery pieces, although the only heavy gun on display was a large calibre machinegun on the back of a lorry.

They looked well fed and relaxed but evidence of the try from the rest of the world, as Iran did after its 1979 conflict, which claims several hundred lives each week, is all around.

The countryside is charred: more than 600 schools have been put to the torch by rebels. Teachers, fear-

ing for their lives, have removed foreign languages or music from the curriculum. Girls no longer go to physical fitness classes.

The security forces, for their part, have set fire to thousands of acres of forest in a vain attempt to smoke the militants out of their hideouts. The charred remains of trees stretch for miles in some parts of the mountains and at night the hills glow orange in the distance.

From here the road eastwards to the capital is deserted; government forces have given up trying to defend small police stations or administrative offices: in one attack last year, the rebels killed 50 policemen.

So entrenched are the militants that they have set up roadblocks that look just like the government ones. Mirrors on hilltops are used to signal messages across the beautiful, rugged terrain, whose slopes were once famed for a red wine developed by former French colonial masters.

The vineyards have vanished; today the haunting landscape makes just as ideal a hiding place for the maquis, as the resistance is known, as it did in the war against France from 1954 to 1962.

Just as then, the rebels are operating in company-sized units of about 100 men.

Sunday Times.

## Bosnian suspects U.N. path leads to partition

By Kurt Schork

Reuters

SARAJEVO — Bosnian government officials, convinced that the U.N.'s mission is now to contain the war and partition Bosnia at almost any cost, say they will let the peacekeepers leave rather than play by their rules.

"The target of U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) is first to freeze the existing situation, to get agreement from the Serb side for every action they take," Minister Without Portfolio Hasan Muratovic told the Sarajevo daily Oslobodjenje.

"This freezing of the situation is unacceptable even if the price of that is the withdrawal of UNPROFOR."

The charge of bias in favour of Bosnian Serbs has haunted the peacekeeping mission throughout 30 months of war in which government troops have lost 70 per cent of the country.

When the Bosnian government agreed to take-it-or-leave-it big power peace plan in the summer, the Serbs said no.

That was supposed to trigger tougher military measures against Bosnian Serb violations of heavy weapons exclusion zones and obstruction of the U.N.'s humanitarian aid effort.

Instead, UNPROFOR has turned more of a blind eye to Serb violations since they rejected peace than it did before.

Serbs cut the main commercial supply route into Sarajevo with heavy weapons fire and have blocked scores of convoys to the city and three isolated Muslim enclaves.

Fuel shortages are so critical the U.N. may have to curtail its operations in the enclaves, some of them desperate for food, antibiotics and pain killers and shelter materials to see them through the winter.

The Bosnian Serb army has again begun shelling "safe areas" where civilians are supposed to enjoy a guarantee of U.N. protection against artillery attacks.

A western suburb of Sarajevo has been shelled for two nights running and Zepa has also been hit. These are safe areas apparently targeted by Serbs who had boasted they would retaliate for government advances elsewhere.

U.N. peacekeepers, led by British Lieutenant-

General Sir Michael Rose, say using force to modify Bosnian Serb behaviour is an option of last resort even under current circumstances.

He warns a more aggressive UNPROFOR posture could trigger a violent Serb response, forcing U.N. troop-contributing nations like Britain and France to pull out.

"It looks like everybody in the world is concerned about the collapse of the United Nations mission in Bosnia," Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic told Reuters.

"What about the collapse of Bosnia? The United Nations peacekeeping mission is not an end in itself."

Relations between the United Nations and the Bosnian government have reached their lowest point since the winter of 1992-93, when Muslims in the three eastern enclaves nearly starved before the U.N. intervened.

Bosnia's U.N. ambassador recently called for Gen. Rose's court martial and all eight Bosnian parliamentary parties have demanded the general's resignation.

They charged him with being soft on rebel Serbs and keener to implement the policies of the British government than the resolutions of the U.N. Security Council.

Bosnian troops opened fire on French peacekeepers twice in the past week as the U.N. tried to force the government soldiers out of a demilitarised zone west of the capital.

Britain and France, who contribute the core of the UNPROFOR peacekeeping force, have threatened to withdraw their troops if the situation in Bosnia deteriorates to the point where they are under general attack by either warring faction.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe is lobbying to permit Bosnian Serbs to confederate with neighbouring rump Yugoslavia — a move that would fatally undermine Bosnia's sovereignty and integrity.

French Defence Minister Francois Leotard, joined by British and Russian ministers, is helping block a U.S. effort to lift the U.N. arms embargo that has crippled Bosnian military efforts.

With Gen. Rose's peacekeepers securely harassed to British and French diplomacy, the Bosnian government might be forgiven for brooding on the adage that even pariahs have enemies.

## Lebanon

Soldiers and newsmen were ordered to withdraw from the town of Tyre, a UN-protected zone, after a brief battle with the Lebanese army. The town was captured by the army on Saturday.

## Br

NEW YORK — A UN-protected zone in Bosnia, where British and French peacekeepers were stationed, was shelled by Bosnian Serb forces on Saturday. The UN said the attack was a violation of the arms embargo.



at times thrive on revealing the art of one larger myth of course. To talk about peace is all right, but what if it says that Israel will not land if occupied which is not saying for years and years, it is no smart, less cunning, for even if it is a small fraction of the

highly fictionalized mode of thinking much of this mode of thinking is not only a myth, but a myth that we have been using for some time. Thank God, we are not alone in this. The peace era is a myth, and it is a myth that we have been using for some time. The peace era is a myth, and it is a myth that we have been using for some time.

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# Features

## Rabin rejects talks with Hamas

(Continued from page 1)

and the suicide bombing of the Tel Aviv bus, leaving a toll of 24 civilians and two soldiers.

"We can make an agreement under international supervision," Sheikh Hamami told the Associated Press.

Before the dialogue could start, they said Israel would have to stop the sweeping arrests of activists and halt threats against the movement. Mr. Rabin has said about 150 activists seized were undergoing harsh interrogation.

Hamas in general wants a full army withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, as well as dismantling over 140 Jewish settlements before it would accept a truce with the Jewish state. More radical elements push for Israel's complete destruction.

The clerics also said any successful dialogue would have to result in the release of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the spiritual leader and founder of Hamas. He was arrested in 1989 and sentenced to life in prison for ordering the killing of Israelis and Palestinian informants.

Sheikh Hamami, a cleric leader for Hamas who runs clinics and schools in Jerusalem, said he was responding personally to Mr. Shabab's statement, but a formal reaction would need more discussion among Hamas members.

The two clerics told the Arabic-language daily Al-Quds that they would enter such a dialogue in order to stop the bloodshed.

"We want a dialogue as soon as possible under international, Arab or Palestinian care," Sheikh Abu Kwaik, a cleric in the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah, told Al-Quds.

The two leaders called for an end to the killing of Israeli and Palestinian civilians.

"We want to stop the bloodshed," Sheikh Abu Kwaik said.

Israel plans to seal two homes belonging to the families of Palestinians killed last month while holding a kidnapped Israeli soldier, a relative said Wednesday.

"Officers came here and gave (my husband) a paper in Hebrew and he took it to the

lawyer," Umm Walid, mother of one of the two guerrillas, told Israeli radio in Arab East Jerusalem.

A Palestinian newspaper said Israeli police gave the Bader and Natsheh families in East Jerusalem 48 hours to appeal the order. The families have hired a lawyer to file the appeal, Umm Walid said.

A police spokesman said he was checking the report.

The two Hamas guerrillas were killed during a failed Israeli commando operation to rescue corporal Nachshon Waxman.

The army said the men shot dead their bound captive when the troops burst into their West Bank hideout.

Israel, using laws inherited from British colonial rule some 50 years ago, regularly closes or destroys the homes of Palestinians suspected of carrying out lethal attacks against Israelis.

Last month, the Israeli army sealed the West Bank house of the Tel Aviv suicide bomber. His family has launched an appeal in the Israeli high court.

## Election talks start next week

(Continued from page 1)

distributed in time for Wednesday morning.

Around 400 workers queued for permits outside Gaza City labour offices, protesting and shouting when their names were not called out.

"What about the rest of us," said Fathy Al Wadeya, 42. "There is no work here, I searched for a job in industry but there are already thousands waiting."

"What can I do, either I steal or turn against the government here and against everyone."

Unemployment in Gaza was estimated at 40 per cent even before the closure. And many Palestinians who managed to get a permit could not get to work because there were too few buses organised.

Abdullah Nasser, a labour office employee, said his brother and four friends working for an Israeli company, could not find any work.

Those who did get through had to go on foot and be met by employers on the Israeli side of roadblocks, because Palestinian private cars and trucks were not allowed out. Mr. Muddall said the permits issued Tuesday evening were for workers older than 37. He expected more to be issued this week for those over 30.

We did not promise that all the Palestinian workers would be allowed through today," said Captain Hannie Jeshurun, spokeswoman for Israel's military administration of the territories.

Israel announced Tuesday that 8,000 permits would be granted to married Palesti-

nians over the age of 30 who had previously worked in Israel, but they had not all been delivered.

"The process of distributing permits has begun but it takes time because for Gaza the Palestinian Authority has to draw up a list of workers and hand it to us," Capt. Jeshurun said.

Meanwhile, Israel's Labour Minister Ora Namir called for \$9,000 fines and six months in prison for Israeli employers who take on Palestinian workers without permits.

Violence erupted at Erez in mid-July when thousands of workers went on a rampage after Israel tightened border checks. Two Palestinians were shot dead, and scores injured. An Israeli soldier later died of his wounds.

## Gaza farmers protest plan

Plans to build an airport in the autonomous Gaza Strip have stirred up a storm of protest among hundreds of farmers who stand to lose their land.

Hundreds of Palestinians blocked a main highway in southern Gaza on Tuesday following reports that the self-rule authority would expropriate the area outside Rafah, near the border with Egypt.

A committee is studying ways to compensate the 2,000 farmers following a decree by Mr. Arafat to use the site, officials said.

Some 300 men, women and children placed rocks across a highway leading to the border with Egypt on Tuesday.

They dispersed peacefully a few hours later after Rafah police Brigadier-General Mohammad Jouda said no final decision had been made and promised to pass on complaints to the authority.

"Free us from the settlers before building an airport," read one banner.

The demonstrators also demanded that the authority look after more urgent problems such as the thousands of Palestinians still in Israeli jails.

Lawyer Ibrahim A. Daghma, who sits on the compensation committee, confirmed Mr. Arafat had issued a decree as carried in the daily Arabic press.

"It is important for the Palestinian Authority to have an airport, the farmers can move to another spot," he said, adding that the location was also linked to security matters and agreements with Israel.

Most of the 24 square kilometres of land in question is government property which was taken over by farmers and residents over the centuries.

They never registered the property, but paid taxes throughout the Ottoman empire, the British mandate and Israeli occupation, said Mr. Daghma.

An unspecified number of families will have to immediately evacuate three square kilometres, with the rest to follow.

There are more than 300 homes in the area and more than 2,000 farmers work the land. They should all be eligible for compensation, said Mahmoud Yusef, assistant to Rafah's mayor.

## Lebanon to protest Israeli rejection of 425

(Continued from page 1)

soldiers and newspaper headlines screamed "disgrace."

Ordinary Israelis were left wondering if their army had lost the fighting spirit now that peace seems at hand.

Yosav Gilber, a historian at Haifa University, said the spirit of "sacrifice" that carried Israel through five wars is crumbling.

"A system of norms has been taken over where it's every man for himself. Don't worry about the masses and don't be a sucker," Mr. Gilber said. "And we see this being expressed in the army."

Saturday's hit-and-run

attack was the first on an Israeli outpost in South Lebanon since April. Hizbollah fighters since April. Hizbollah cameramen filmed the attack, showing well-armed soldiers taking the position and blowing it up.

The grainy film was quickly distributed throughout Lebanon, where it is sure to win recruits to the ranks of Hizbollah. Israeli TV picked up the film and ran a version of it several times.

An army investigation revealed a number of Israeli soldiers abandoned their position after it came under

rocket fire, opening a flank to assault.

Mr. Rabin, a former general and defence minister, clearly was not pleased by the conduct of the soldiers and angry that no Hizbollah fighters died.

"The fact that the attack by Hizbollah did not end with real punishment to the attackers is not a success for us, and I am putting it mildly," Mr. Rabin said.

The army said two officers and five soldiers will face disciplinary action and that all troops involved would be immediately removed from the zone Israel controls in South Lebanon.

## Trial begins of Brooklyn Bridge attack

NEW YORK (AP) — The lawyer for the man who killed one Hasidic student and wounded three others on the Brooklyn Bridge last March said Tuesday that the defendant was not responsible because Mideast turmoil had made him insane.

Attorney Eric Sears told a Manhattan jury in state supreme court they should look beyond "the 15 or so seconds" in which Rashid Baz, 28, sprayed a van filled with 15 Hasidic Jewish students with automatic gunfire. They should try to understand what role his upbringing and experiences played in that assault.

Mr. Sears said Mr. Baz lived until he was 18 in Lebanon amid civil war and violence which, "besides being constant and random, was often brutal. The house you left in the morning could be

ruined that night." "Those years inevitably left scars on his personality," Mr. Sears said. He said he will call psychiatric experts, including one who deals specifically with mental trauma have come from war-torn areas.

Mr. Baz, a Lebanese national and a Brooklyn livery cab driver, is charged with the murder of Aaron Halberstam, 16, on March 1 while the teenager and 14 other Yeshiva students were returning to Brooklyn from a Manhattan hospital.

Mr. Baz admits he shot at the van, but in a videotaped statement for police he said the van cut him off at the bridge's ramp. He said he and the passengers traded insults, and he fired only after the van's driver shot at him. Assistant District Attorney

Armand Durastanti said the evidence will show that Mr. Baz's account is untrue. Baz, the prosecutor said, opened fire almost as soon as he saw the van enter the bridge's approach ramp.

One piece of evidence, Mr. Durastanti said, is a bullet recovered from a nearby building which was fired from the Cobray .9mm machine pistol that was taken from Mr. Baz. The prosecutor said the bullet's travel path shows Mr. Baz was on the entrance ramp when he shot.

"The defendant intended to kill all 15 in the van and succeeded in killing one," Mr. Durastanti said.

An Egyptian auto mechanic led police to Baz when he told them "a man he knew as 'Ray' told him he had just killed some Jews on the Brooklyn Bridge," Mr. Durastanti said.

## After cyclone, a dazed country tries to rebuild

By John Daniszewski  
The Associated Press

KIGALI — A cyclone of hatred swept this small African nation and left in its wake more than a half-million dead.

Seldom in the annals of human cruelty have so many people been killed so savagely so quickly.

As the dazed country struggles to rebuild, the United Nations considers a tribunal on genocide and up to two million refugees contemplate whether to return to an uncertain welcome or to remain in exile.

An unnatural peace has prevailed since a predominantly ethnic Tutsi rebel movement drove out a government dominated by the Hutu majority in July. The question that haunts international observers is whether the calm is permanent or simply a prelude to a new round of death.

"Rapid disintegration" remains a possibility, said Alison Des Forges, a historian who has studied Rwanda for two decades and now is a consultant to Human Rights Watch-Africa.

The government really does not have the resources to establish its authority in anything other than a military sense," she said. "Meanwhile, the guys on the outside are cocky as hell."

Much of the defeated Hutu army is in refugee camps in neighbouring countries. Supposedly they have been disarmed, but observers believe they have arms hidden away.

Hutu leaders are demanding a role in the new government in Kigali and threaten to resume fighting if they are not. Tutsis say they will never work with leaders of a government that U.N. investigators have blamed for unleashing extremist Hutus who massacred an estimated 500,000 people from April into July.

The new government says it has changed the direction of Rwandan politics. Theogène Rudasingwa, secretary-general of the victorious Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), said it has established "the first really broad-based government in the history of Rwanda."

The president, prime minister and two-thirds of the cabinet are Hutus. But Maj. Gen. Paul Kagame, a Tutsi, who is a vice president and defence minister, is still the man with ultimate power.

The question now is how to stop Rwanda's seemingly endless cycles of reprisal, repression, violence and death.

The new government finds itself in charge of a traumatised people and

wrecked economy.

The retreating Hutu government looted the national bank, and new Finance Minister Marc Rugenera confesses he does not even have keys to open the central bank's vault. He could blast it open. "But we need that building," he said in an interview.

At the moment, the government cannot pay civil servants or its army, and it depends on handouts from foreign governments and international aid agencies to repair war-ravaged water mains and telecommunications networks.

Ironically, in the refugee camps, the defeated Hutu soldiers are being paid with the purloined national assets. The former government also carried off all Rwanda's reserves of foreign currency.

"With this shortage of foreign exchange the country cannot import anything. Our private sector cannot import spare parts, factories cannot bring in raw materials, and we have no revenues because income taxes are impossible," Mr. Rugenera said.

The country's top priority is stability so that refugees feel safe to return, Gen. Kagame said.

The government also seeks foreign help to restart the economy, he said. And it plans an education campaign to teach Rwandans tolerance in hopes that ethnic slaughter will never take place again.

A slaughterhouse in April and May, its streets awash in blood and bodies, Kigali was a ghost town when the rebels finally seized control in July.

As the rebels approached, Hutus ran away by the hundreds of thousands. In a single day in April, more than 250,000 crossed into Tanzania, within a five-day period before the end in July, 1.2 million people poured into eastern Zaire.

Huddled in miserable camps, lacking clean water and living atop their own body wastes, 50,000 to 60,000 of these refugees died of cholera and other diseases in the three weeks it took Western troops and aid groups to set up basic hygiene.

The refugees have for the most part stayed in exile, cowed from returning both by the armed Hutu militants in their midst and the shadowy reports of Tutsi reprisals back home. Fearful Hutus still trickle out of Rwanda.

By August, a new population had started moving into Rwanda. The children of Tutsis expelled in a wave of Hutu bloodletting in 1959 returned from exile in Uganda and began occupying abandoned



A Rwandan woman takes care of her baby at a refugee camp (AFP photo)

houses and businesses.

They were joined by Rwandan Tutsis who hid themselves during the latest slaughter and some Hutus willing to trust the government's promises of reconciliation.

The United Nations estimates there are now about 5 million people in Rwanda, compared to 7.9 million before the war. Tutsis, just 15 per cent of the population before the war, may make up half the population of Kigali now.

Returnees and the newcomers are breathing life into the capital.

Electricity is on again, and much of the city has running water, thanks to U.N.-hired contractors. A handful of restaurants and nightclubs are open. The market bustles with hawkers selling bananas, papayas and unplucked chickens. Gasoline stations operate although here are few cars aside from those belonging to the United

Nations, aid groups and government troops.

Scars of the fighting remain. But the thousands of bodies are buried, and the dogs that fattened on them are being shot. The stench of death that once permeated the city is now undetected beneath the perfume of the hibiscus. The Hotel Mille Collines has refilled its swimming pool.

In the countryside, villages also are slowly filling up with people. Without fanfare, U.N. military observers say, workers are returning to their banana groves and terraced hillsides.

In the eastern hamlet of Bwinsanga, where the new Tutsi head man says 300 to 350 villagers were massacred, there is an icy silence between surviving Tutsis and Hutus.

Leaders of the government have demanded that the former Hutu leaders be tried for genocide.

The U.N. Security coun-

cil has not made a final decision on a war-crimes tribunal. But U.N. spokesman Paul Mehu in Kigali said, "it is the intention of the international community to bring to justice the people who are responsible."

There could be thousands, and prosecution would be expensive in time and money for a world organisation already preoccupied with other crises.

Prosecuting the guilty is the key to preventing a recurrence, said Ms. Des Forges, the historian, but it is still an open question if the world will show the will.

"It's not impossible that we're just going to fink out," she said. On the other hand, "there are a lot of guilty consciences around... There's this feeling that we let people be slaughtered and did nothing, and now the least we can do is bring these people to justice."

## Security commission starts Kabul clean-up

KABUL (AFP) — A government programme began Wednesday to clean up central Kabul and restore the Afghan capital to some degree of calm after months of intense bombardment and close-quarter fighting, a security official said.

"Our aim is to create an atmosphere of security, calmness and to prevent disorder," General Yunus Qanooni, chief of the Kabul Security Commission which ordered the operation, told AFP.

Kabul residents were treated to the rare sight of security troops stopping vehicles in the street and checking gunmen for valid firearms permits.

Black plastic window shades were summarily ripped off so that drivers and passengers could be easily seen.

Workers from the Kabul municipality also began dismantling the network of bunkers that line many central Kabul streets.

Sen. Qanooni and acting head of garrison forces, Gen. Baba Jan, toured Kabul in a convoy of trucks carrying heavily armed troops to check that the security commission orders were being implemented smoothly.

"You will not find a single unauthorised armed man roaming anywhere in the city now," said Gen. Qanooni.

From now on only a limited number of permit-carrying commanders and their bodyguards will be allowed to bear arms in Kabul, a system that disintegrated when the current factional fighting erupted in

January this year.

"Our action shows that the Islamic state of Afghanistan is concerned with the safety of Kabul citizens," he added.

The clean-up has been taken as a sign of confidence on the part of military forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani that the defence of the capital is well in hand.

Many jeeps patrolled Kabul with loudspeakers announcing the operation, which, Gen. Qanooni explained, involved Interior Ministry gendarmes (formerly called Sarandoy), army units, and security department troops.

For 10 months pro-Rabbani troops have been fighting off a coalition of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction together with ex-communist forces of Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostum and the Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat faction.

Amid the conflict, acts of robbery, looting, kidnapping and murder were reportedly carried out by undisciplined elements.

The frontlines in the east and south of the capital were calm as the city-wide clean-up got underway. Locals speculated that the action may be linked with the recent peace initiative of United Nations special envoy Mahmoud Mesrifi.

A spokesman for the state news agency Bakhtar said: "The U.N. plan is still under consideration but there is much optimism because there is sufficient harmony between the position of Rabbani and Mesrifi's peace proposal."

## After Cairo, surprising momentum on population

By Deborah Zabarenko  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Cairo population conference

shone a spotlight on abortion, birth control, women's rights and sex and started a surprising momentum for progress on those issues, according to experts.

Many who followed the deliberations of the Sept. 5-13 gathering in the Egyptian capital wondered whether anything was really going to change.

Surprisingly enough, considering the ineffectiveness of many such world gatherings, veterans of global diplomacy and population controversies say yes.

"I think Cairo could be the start of a gender quake — the start of a really profound shift in the status of relationships between men and women around the world," Alex Marshall, a spokesman for the United Nations Population Fund, said in an interview.

Having attended international and regional meetings on population issues since the 1970s, Mr. Marshall has a rather jaundiced view of many such proceedings.

Before Cairo, Mr. Marshall said, U.N. officials wondered how they could get the world to pay attention to yet another conference that would likely re-

sult in a statement of broad consensus and have little impact on people's daily lives.

"Who the hell cares about a global consensus?" he said. But that was before Pope John Paul weighed in with a series of comments targeting the conference's draft document for its stance favouring abortion rights and women's empowerment.

"Luckily his holiness came to the rescue," is how Mr. Marshall saw it, asserting the Vatican's attacks on the meeting drew more attention to it and could spark more action after it.

That sentiment is shared by Lori Ashford, a senior policy analyst at the Washington-based Population Reference Bureau, a non-profit educational organisation that has monitored population issues since 1929.

"I heard people complain that the abortion issue is detracting from the meeting, the Vatican is detracting... But I think actually the controversy and the conflict created more attention," Ms. Ashford said in an interview.

"If it had just been another ho-hum conference on demographics no one would have watched it on television," she said.

While Ms. Ashford acknowledges controversy over abortion and other fractious issues drew attention to yet another conference, the final docu-

ment was remarkable for its concord over the need to improve the lot of women.

"The advancement of women is key and I can't think of any U.N. meeting or document that promoted women as much as this has," she said.

Both Ms. Ashford and Mr. Marshall saw this emphasis on women's empowerment as crucial to changing world behaviour and both were optimistic this could take place.

Mr. Marshall saw changes coming in the area of abortion, especially support for ending unsafe abortions.

Another reason for optimism was increased financial commitment to population and development programmes by rich nations including the United States, Britain, Japan and Germany in addition to aid from international lending institutions, Mr. Marshall said.

He said this support would go beyond family planning aid to include other areas including the fight against sexually transmitted disease, AIDS prevention and care, infertility and issues of consent in sexual relationships.

A voice of dissent on the effectiveness of the Cairo meeting was raised at the conservative CATO Institute in Washington where development economist Lord Peter Bauer dismissed the notion that limiting population would spur economic development.



# U.S. Federal Reserve flies to rescue after dollar hits record low against yen

LONDON (Agencies) — The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) intervened Wednesday afternoon on the London foreign exchange market to prop up the sagging dollar after the greenback fell to a post-war low against the yen, foreign exchange dealers said.

That marked the first Fed intervention since last June 24, they noted, and came after the dollar had plummeted to 96 yen in mid-afternoon, its lowest level since World War II. The move brought the greenback back up to 96.95 yen in late afternoon, against 96.80 Tuesday evening in London. The previous record low of 96.35 yen to the dollar came Tuesday last week.

The dollar stood at 1.5035 marks in late trading against 1.4958 Tuesday evening and

1.4933 shortly before the Fed intervention, which started at 1600 GMT. No other central banks joined in.

"It was a successful intervention, as the time was well chosen, just as European markets were closing," said Nick Parsons, an analyst at Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. He said the move surprised European market players short of dollars and soaked them with sharp losses.

"That certainly won't be enough to keep the dollar higher in lasting fashion, but at least it reminds operators that they can lose money on the market, as well as make it," he commented.

This time, the Fed "is ready for anything to avoid letting its intervention fail," the analyst said. He noted it was accompanied by a state-

ment by U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen that the dollar's drop is "counter-productive" for the United States and the world economy.

Mr. Parsons expects the Bank of Japan to continue the intervention overnight on the Asian market. There might be some concerted intervention by several central banks if the dollar again weakens in the next few days.

The dollar has been weakened since Tuesday afternoon by renewed fears of U.S. inflationary pressures, in the wake of a higher-than-expected purchasing managers' index in October. The market is waiting for U.S. October job figures due out on Friday to judge whether the U.S. economic performance justifies an immediate increase in interest rates.

Among European currencies, the mark suddenly jumped during the day against the lira, hitting 1,031.7 lire to the mark, just a whisker from the Italian currency's record low against the mark of 1,032.50, last Aug. 12. The lira sagged on rumors — officially denied — that Premier Silvio Berlusconi would resign soon. The market is also concerned about the government's ability to meet deficit reduction goals.

Sterling firmed generally on what traders called a technical correction after its fall on Tuesday when a Bank of England report seemed to cast doubt on prospects for a rise in British interest rates in the near future.

At 1715 GMT, sterling was trading at \$1.6340 (against

1.6330 Tuesday evening in London), 2.4567 marks (2.4426), 158.42 yen (158.07), 2.0507 Swiss francs (2.0396), and 8.4233 French francs (8.3712).

The dollar stood at 1.5035 marks (1.4958), 96.95 yen (96.80), 1.2550 Swiss francs (1.2490), and 5.1550 French francs (5.1265).

Gold dipped to \$384 an ounce against \$384.50 Tuesday evening.

The three-month Eurodollar rose to 5.625 per cent against 5.5625 Tuesday, while the British three-month interbank rate fell to 6.0625 per cent against 6.125 on Tuesday.

"I think this intervention, while it might hold the dollar in the near term, is only going to give the market better levels to sell," said Brian Martin, economist at Citibank in London.

## Study: GATT will shave \$20b of U.S. trade deficit, boost growth

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Congressional approval of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will shave \$20 billion off the U.S. trade deficit and boost economic growth by one per cent, a private study said.

Carried out by the Institute for International Economics, a research group close to the Democrats, the study will be a likely backdrop to the GATT ratification debate in Congress following the Nov. 8 mid-term elections.

The renewed House of Representative is expected to vote on the agreement Nov. 29, while the Senate will do so Dec. 1.

Despite strong opposition by environmentalists, conservatives and the textile industry, who fear GATT will harm U.S. sovereignty, most other sectors are in favour of the agreement, which was completed in December after

seven years of work by 123 countries.

The institute's estimates that by the year 2000 the trade agreement should raise U.S. exports by \$41.9 billion and imports, through reduced tariffs, by \$22.7 billion.

Under such circumstances, the U.S. trade deficit, which stood at \$115.8 billion in 1993, should drop by \$19.1 billion.

The boost in exports triggered by cheaper imports for U.S. companies and consumers will add \$65 billion to the U.S. economy by 2004, an increase of one per cent in the gross domestic product (GDP), the institute said.

Jeffery Schott, who coauthored the study, said the Uruguay Round would be 10 times more beneficial to the United States than the North American Free Trade Agreement it signed last year with Canada and Mexico.

The institute's conclusions on the Uruguay Round are similar to those reached by GATT and the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

However, the institute's predictions of economic and employment growth fall short of those made by President Bill Clinton when it called on Congress to ratify the Uruguay Round.

The Clinton administration believes the agreement will boost the yearly GDP from \$100 billion to \$200 billion and create 1.5 million jobs by the year 2000.

The Institute for International Economics predicts only 265,000 new jobs in the same period.

Besides slashing tariffs, the Uruguay Round would eliminate protectionism for the first time in the service and agriculture multilateral mechanism to settle trade disputes.

## Swedish finance minister recommends tax hikes, spending cuts until '98

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Finance Minister Göran Persson presented a tough budget to lawmakers Wednesday including tax rises and spending cuts designed to boost state coffers by \$7.1 billion (kr 58.15 billion) to 1998.

For the mandate period to 1998, Mr. Persson recommended savings of 25.5 billion kronor (\$3.64 billion) and a net income increase of 31.6 billion kronor (\$4.51 billion).

For 1995 Persson recommended improving the state finances by 29.8 billion kronor (\$4.25 billion), including 12.1 billion kronor (\$1.72 billion) in savings and 17.7 billion kronor (\$2.52 billion) in net income increase.

The 1995 budget year will run for 18 months from July 1, 1995 to Dec. 31, 1996, with budgets in future running from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

The Social Democrat government also intends to propose additional savings of 20 billion kronor (\$2.85 billion)

## Expert says Asia needs \$400b in power sector investments until 2004

MANILA (AFP) — Asian countries need up to \$400 billion in investment in power generation over the next 10 years to meet the demands of fast-growing economies, a World Bank energy expert has said.

But Anil Malhotra, World Bank energy adviser for the region, warned that the magnitude of investments may pose financial problems as traditional lenders such as his bank and the Asian Development Bank "are unlikely" to exceed 15 per cent of the total financial requirement.

"As Asia is likely to continue to experience the world's fastest economic growth rates, its energy needs will double over the next decade requiring investments in the power sector alone of about \$300 to \$400 billion," he told an Asian energy conference here.

He said a recent World Bank study involving 10 Asian countries showed the average rise in power de-

## India to loosen foreign exchange regime soon

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India intends to loosen remaining foreign exchange controls shortly as it lays the groundwork for a fully convertible rupee, a top central official has said.

The Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), which governs transactions in foreign currency, will be rewritten and renamed as part of the liberalisation, said O.P. Sodhani, executive director of the Reserve Bank of India.

The redrafted law will contain "inbuilt provisions for capital account convertibility," setting the stage for a free movement of capital to and from the country, Mr. Sodhani said.

Indian companies will be given greater freedom to in-

vest in overseas joint ventures and open branches abroad when the liberalised rules are introduced, he told a seminar organised by the confederation of Indian industry.

The current limit of \$2 million on Indian corporate investment in a foreign joint venture could be raised by \$10 million. Bigger investments would be subject to central bank approvals.

Mr. Sodhani said India's foreign currency reserves had swelled to about \$19.6 billion, industry had recovered from recession, food grain stocks had soared to a record 31 million tonnes and inflation was under control at eight per cent.

"These factors provide the confidence for dismantling

controls," he said, adding that India was steadily moving towards a fully convertible rupee on the capital account.

He did not specify a date by which the rewritten FERA would come into force but said it would be introduced shortly.

Making the rupee fully convertible would be the last step in foreign exchange reforms introduced by the government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao as part of wide-ranging economic liberalisation begun in mid-1991.

India made the rupee convertible on the current account in August, lifting restrictions on the currency's conversion for overseas travel, medical expenses,

gifts and services.

Limits remained to ensure that capital account transactions are not carried out in the garb of current account transactions.

Capital account convertibility in terms of allowing domestic corporate players and individuals to freely raise and invest funds abroad would have to wait until foreign exchange reserves swell further and inflation goes down, the central bank said.

"We have had to go step in internationalising the rupee," Mr. Sodhani said. "It will take us some more time to make the rupee fully convertible."

Indian economists have predicted that the citing the steady improvement in foreign exchange reserves.

## Pakistan pledges continued deregulation

KARACHI (AFP) — Pakistan vowed to continue deregulation of its economy, as a three-day international conference on financial markets and investment opportunities in the country opened here Tuesday.

"We are gradually shifting from a regulated system to a market-oriented economy," a top economic aide to Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told the meeting.

V.A. Jafarey, who opened the conference sponsored by the London-based Euro-money Conferences organisation, said the full impact of Pakistan's economic reforms would unfold gradually.

The reforms have already lifted foreign exchange controls, simplified investment procedures and provided

tariff cuts on imports, in addition to incentives such as repatriation of capital and profits.

Mr. Jafarey said that, as a result of the reforms, the country's foreign exchange reserves had gone up from a low \$300 million a year ago to nearly \$3 billion.

He said Pakistan's stock market was expanding rapidly, but the money market and bond market needed time to grow.

A major thrust of Pakistan's policy was to attract foreign investment in the energy and telecommunication sectors, he said.

Pakistan has secured investment commitments \$4 billion from U.S. companies for thermal power generation projects.

## Russia to stabilise rouble after 'black Tuesday'

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's Security Council said Wednesday that the Oct. 11 "black Tuesday" plunge in the rouble had threatened market reforms and vowed to take urgent measures to stabilise the currency.

A statement by President Boris Yeltsin's press service said the influential council discussed a report by a special commission investigating the crisis.

It said the rouble's drop of more than 20 per cent against the dollar had been a threat to national security. The rouble fell to new lows of close to 4,000 to the dollar, but has since recovered to 3,093.

The statement said the currency's collapse had undermined confidence in the fledgling market, reduced the appeal of long-term capital investments, and raised prices and inflationary expectations.

"The Security Council has ordered the government to take quick and concrete steps to regulate the rouble rate and exchange operations," it said, without giving details of

specific measures.

"A blow has been dealt to the reform course, social stability, the living standards of a significant part of the population and the international standing of Russia," it said.

The Security Council, chaired by Mr. Yeltsin, said the consequences were long-term. It blamed lack of coordination between executive authorities as well as untimely and at times incompetent decisions by those who could have averted the crisis.

"Control over hard currency operations was not ensured, measures were not taken to stop speculation," it said.

Special attention would be paid to compensating those who suffered from the crisis, it said, without elaborating.

The currency collapse has already led to the ousting of acting finance minister Sergei Dubinin and central bank chief Viktor Geraschenko.

Mr. Yeltsin has made clear that he sees the rouble fall as a deliberate action aimed at undermining him.

## Tourism to Turkey hurt by Kurdish threats

ISTANBUL (R) — Threats by Kurdish guerrillas to disrupt Turkey's lucrative tourism and lingering economic problems in western Europe are likely to cost Turkey some \$700 million in lost revenues this year, tour operators say.

Turkish officials had projected that tourism, after textile exports the country's biggest foreign currency earner, would bring in some \$4.7 billion from 7.5 million visitors.

But bombings by separatist Kurdish guerrillas in Istanbul

and coastal resorts coupled with economic woes in Europe have forced officials to revise figures downward.

In the first nine months of this year some 5.2 million people visited Turkey — up 2.6 per cent from the first nine months of 1993 — and the end of the high season makes any late burst unlikely, tour operators told Reuters this week.

"Normally we see a 15 to 20 per cent increase in arrivals year to year, but this year we will have about the same numbers as 1993," said

Suba Uyar, general secretary of the Turkish Tourism Operators Agency (Tursab).

Revenues are expected to end at about \$4 billion, the same as last year, while the number of visitors will remain around the 6.5 million in 1993.

Tourism figures show large drops in visitors from western European countries.

The number of German tourists in the first nine months of this year was down 17 per cent, while visitors from Belgium declined 19 per cent, Swiss travellers were

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Glasbergen

**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Hazel Arnold and Mike Anglin

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ADDIE  
MOURF  
MENECT  
LEWOLF

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: AN \_\_\_\_\_

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: TARDY IVORY ANKLET TIMELY

Answer: What some leave behind when getting away from it all — VERY LITTLE

**HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED**

**THE Daily Crossword** by George Uquhart

ACROSS

- Flower holder
- Police address
- Ghosts
- Dutch cheese
- Turkish city
- Cat's mother
- Vigorous
- Regula
- Boxer's score
- Surround
- Diplomatic staff member
- Address Shire
- Amulet
- Medicine game
- Dismiss from a job
- Waste allowance
- Pod vegetable
- Grow older
- Biblical wicked city
- Transmit
- Setting or singer
- Pro
- Nephris Indian
- "Do unto..."
- Monkey's cousin
- "We all"
- Gametic
- Agonized
- Songbird
- Says further
- Derivation of a word
- Due of the storm
- French resort
- Being: Lat.
- Comedian Fox
- Military
- Blockade
- Winnor's prize
- Funny Jay
- Marque de
- Gambling game
- "Rhythm"
- In the act of committing a crime
- Accepted gladly
- Tee-tung
- Comme ça
- Mami's country
- Concerning
- Impulsive

DOWN

- 10 "Six trans..."
- 11 Pigeon reception
- 12 Metaphor
- 13 Fox's mom
- 14 — Wales
- 15 — de France
- 24 Busty and bowler
- 25 Mistake
- 26 Winner's prize
- 31 Marquee de
- 32 Gambling game
- 33 "Rhythm"
- 34 In the act of committing a crime
- 35 Tobi symbol
- 36 Old Soviet letter
- 37 Rome fountain
- 38 Stand up
- 39 Well conditioner
- 40 Cautious being
- 41 Wizard
- 42 Obfuscated
- 43 Ump's ion
- 44 Sleeps noisily
- 45 Old Soviet letter
- 46 Rome fountain
- 47 Stand up
- 48 Well conditioner
- 49 Cautious being
- 50 Carson's professor
- 51 Not working
- 52 Mugging of TV
- 53 Eye-looking old woman
- 54 Comp. pt.

**Peanuts**

**Andy Capp**

**Mutt'n'Jeff**



# Financial Markets

Jordan Times  
In co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 11/1/94	Tokyo Close 2/11/94
Sterling Pound	1.6335	1.6348
Deutsche Mark	1.4948	1.4927
Swiss Franc	1.2458	1.2438
French Franc	5.1190	5.1120**
Japanese Yen	96.65	96.40
European Currency Unit	1.2735	1.2754**

\* USD Per STG  
\*\* European Currency Unit

Interbank Bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.81	5.43	5.75	6.06
Sterling Pound	5.50	5.51	6.25	6.93
Deutsche Mark	4.75	5.08	5.06	5.43
Swiss Franc	3.62	3.87	4.00	4.43
French Franc	5.31	5.50	5.68	6.18
Japanese Yen	2.18	2.24	2.35	2.60
European Currency Unit	5.53	5.84	6.05	6.59

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin  
Date: 2/11/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.1236	1.1292
Deutsche Mark	0.3605	0.3628
Swiss Franc	0.5526	0.5551
French Franc	0.1344	0.1351
Japanese Yen	0.7129	0.7165
Dutch Guilder	0.4108	0.4129
Swedish Krona	0.0446	0.0450
Italian Lira	0.0446	0.0450
Belgian Franc	0.0446	0.0450

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8090	1.8220
Lebanese Lira	0.040835	0.042820
Saudi Riyal	0.1826	0.1843
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3700
Qatari Riyal	0.1876	0.1890
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.7680	1.7840
UAE Dirham	0.1870	0.1880
Greek Drachma	0.2675	0.3160
Cypriot Pound	1.4140	1.5180

## Multinationals in \$5.4b 'bio-piracy,' says U.N. report

GENEVA (AFP) — "Bio-piracy" by multinational food and drug companies cheats developing countries of more than \$5 billion a year in biotechnology royalties, said a United Nations report.

The U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) said Third World plant species alone earned the pharmaceutical industry more than \$30 billion, but while more than 90 per cent of the earth's "biological diversity" was located in Africa, Asia and South America, local inhabitants did not reap the benefits of their biological wealth.

"If royalty payments were made to developing countries and their indigenous people for their plant varieties and local knowledge used by big multinational food and drug companies, those providers would be getting \$5.4 billion a year that they do not see today," said the UNDP report.

The growing use of patents meant multinationals could protect profits made on the back of knowledge gained from poor, developing countries, the report added.

The UNDP wanted "to ensure that indigenous communities will, on their own terms, benefit from any commercialisation of products of their knowledge, and avoid becoming trapped in a system of exploitation," said Sarah Timpson, deputy assistant UNDP administrator for policy and programme support.

According to the report industrialised countries are patenting "material partially or wholly derived from farmers' varieties," leaving indigenous farmers "paying for the end product of their own genius."

"Even the patent claims over the DNA of indigenous peoples themselves has become the focus of debate and law suits," the report added.

To help redress the imbalance the report recommends the appointment of ombudsmen to investigate complaints from indigenous communities and their national governments, empowered to do patent approvals and of patent applications review.

It also proposes the creation of tribunals to settle disputes between patent claimants and indigenous peoples, and the creation of a legal system which would allow legal challenges by indigenous peoples.

## Ten-minute traffic jams cost Hong Kong \$2b

HONG KONG (R) — In Hong Kong, where perhaps more than anywhere in the world time is money, a daily 10-minute traffic jam could be costing the British colony \$2.3 billion a year, a local bank has calculated.

According to the Hang Seng Bank's monthly economic report, nominal gross domestic product figures show every worker in Hong Kong produces an average of 150 Hong Kong dollars (\$19) worth of output an hour.

"If the time spent in traffic congestion is put to productive use, a 10-minute daily delay for each worker would equal 124 million working hours for the whole economy," the report said.

"When translated into money terms, this would imply an additional output of 18 billion HK dollars (\$2.3 billion) or two per cent of the gross domestic product," it added.

Traffic conditions have deteriorated sharply in Hong Kong in recent years as car ownership has outstripped road construction.

The rapid expansion of trade with China has led to an increase in freight and passenger movements across the border, exacerbating the problem, the report said.

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3558/68	Canadian dollar
	1.4950/60	Deutsche marks
	1.6776/86	Dutch guilders
	1.2460/70	Swiss francs
	30.76/80	Belgian francs
	5.1238/88	French francs
	1536.6/8.1	Italian lire
	96.47/57	Japanese yen
	7.1800/00	Swedish crowns
	6.5200/70	Norwegian crowns
	5.8571/21	Danish crowns
	81.6360/70	
One sterling	\$1.6360/70	
One ounce of gold	\$383.80/384.20	

## 41 per cent of U.S. multinational firms want to invest in new market

NEW YORK (AFP) — In two years time, 41 per cent of U.S. multinational corporations are planning on increasing their investments in newly-emerging markets, according to a study published by Ernst and Young.

In comparison, 36 per cent of European multinationals and nine per cent of Japanese ones are planning such actions.

Over five years, these percentages would increase to 48 per cent, 38 per cent, and 15 per cent, respectively, according to the audit firm's study which looks at 230 of the first 1,000 multinational corporations.

These statistics are important in light of the fact that the United States have traditionally been less active than Europe and Japan in developing countries.

China, Mexico, and Brazil are the three countries most favoured by U.S. multinationals. Overall, the countries which are most named are China, with 5 per cent; India, 17; Indonesia, 17; Mexico, 17; Malaysia, 17; Argentina, 17; Korea, 17; and Taiwan.

The market size is the criteria of companies. They look at the possible fits and finally at strategic positioning. The low cost labour is rarely mentioned.

Nine out of ten companies fear political unrest as a legal barrier and exchange controls. The majority European (82 per cent) Japanese (83 per cent) national corporations into consideration the implications as opposed to third of U.S. corporate

## Arab Gulf shipping company to expand operation after loss

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The biggest joint shipping venture in the Arab World is planning to expand operations in the Gulf after it suffered heavy losses due to competition and world recession.

The United Arab States Company (UASC), by six Gulf government-backed firms, has decided to expand its operations in the Mediterranean, increasing services to East Asia and other areas.

The Kuwait-based company has decided to expand its operations in the Mediterranean as a board for launching operations to Egypt, Syria, Jordan and other countries in the region while it waits for a feeder service to North Africa for the time.

The board of directors has approved an expansion plan for 1995. Port Said is the main base for countries in the Mediterranean as from the start of the year.

UASC's Mediterranean lines director, V. Dawud, told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of Bayan.

He said the plan involved boosting services to South East Asia to containers every week 1,500 containers to America in cooperation with the National Shipping Company of Saudi Arabia.

UASC sources said expansion followed largely due to growing competition from the oil-rich Gulf and economic recession.

Although shipping rates have risen in the past 15 months, they remained far lower than levels three years ago.

After the rise, freight between the South East Asia now between \$1,200 and per 20-foot container compared with between \$1,600 and \$1,900 in 1991.

Rates on cargo to the Gulf and Europe also as low as \$15 container compared \$1,700 in 1991 while lines from the United Arab Emirates have fallen to \$2,000.

Shipping agents warned small firms the Gulf could be a business if rates were weak. They said to allow large companies to monopolise the market this could hurt them.

The decline in rates coupled with a downturn in the \$11 million on UASC and \$33 million in 1991 compared with record around \$60 million

## JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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# English clubs eliminated in UEFA Cup

ARIS (AFP) — English clubs were dumped out of the UEFA Cup Tuesday — with Aston Villa and Newcastle United losing on the away goals rule.

But big continental clubs to through after first-leg results included Deportivo La Coruna of Spain and Eintracht Frankfurt of Germany. France's 1993 European Cup winners Marseille made a valiant effort to come back but being beaten 2-0 in the st-leg by Swiss side Sion. At their 3-1 victory wasn't enough and they, too, lost on away goals.

Just days after European football's governing body UEFA Cup place, bringing a total up to four, the 1994 campaign was over.

Turkish club Trabzonspor, down to ten men, drew on aggregate with Villa, 1 Spain's Athletic Bilbao 3-3 overall with Newcastle.

Added to Blackburn Rovers' loss to Swedish partners Trelleborgs in the first round, it completed a dramatic 'four English foot-

ball went clear and levelled their tie overall through Ian Atkinson with 13 miles left and it began to look as though it would be enough to take them into extra-time against opponents who had ended Cypriot off for a second round.

But they suffered a lapse in concentration in the dying minutes and Abdullah's corner was headed by Cengiz for an to pounce and hook ball into the roof of the

proved crucial — though Enkio scored for Villa with the last of the match.

couple of dozen Turkish came on to the pitch to

brate with their players



Olympique's midfielder Jean Marc Ferreri (L) passes FC Sion's Raphael Wicky in their UEFA Cup match Tuesday (AFP photo)

and at least one was attacked by a Villa supporter, who ran from the other end.

The club were fined 12,000 pounds by UEFA when a similar invasion followed their first-round victory over Inter Milan, and they are certain to be punished again.

Athletic Bilbao's 1-0 win in front of 47,000 fans in the Basque capital was enough to end Newcastle's European dream.

But the spadework had been done at St. James Park in the first leg, when the Spaniards pulled back two late goals after trailing 3-0.

The result proved a week is a long time in football. High-flying Newcastle also lost their unbeaten English Pre-

iership record against defending champions Manchester United Saturday.

An error by Czech keeper Pavel Srnec undid a splendid defensive performance to send Newcastle tumbling out.

Midway through the second period, Victor Alkiza put Jose Ziganda away and the man who had started Bilbao's first leg revival shot under the Czech keeper from 14 yards.

Newcastle's defeat should have been heavier, with Bilbao awarded a penalty five minutes from time when John Beresford brought down the breaking Suances.

But Garitano's spot kick hit the bar and although he buried the rebound in the

net, the goal was ruled out because he had struck the ball twice without another player touching it.

Another Spanish club, Real Madrid, swept into the third round with a 4-0 home win over Dynamo Moscow.

Real, who drew 2-2 last month, beat the Russians with a late flurry of goals after a scoreless first half.

Chilean international striker Ivan Zamorano opened the scoring early in the second half and Argentina's Fernando Redondo made it 2-0 with a quarter of an hour to go.

Victory was sealed with two goals in the final two minutes from newcomer

Dani Garcia, a 20-year-old from Real's reserves who came on as a second-half substitute.

Swedish part-timers Trelleborgs, who topped England's Blackburn Rovers in the previous round, were within seconds of extra-time and a possible penalty shoot-out against Lazio.

But after 180 minutes of goalless football, Croatian Alen Boksic, Lazio's signing from cash-strapped Olympique Marseille, scored in the final seconds.

Nicolas Ouedec performed the same task for Nantes, scoring both goals as the French team beat Tekstilshik Kamyshtin 2-1 in the Moscow mud for a 4-1 overall win.

## Jordan Soccer Roundup

### Wihdat meet Ramtha as tenth week kicks off

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Leaders Al Wihdat face Al Ramtha while second placed Al Hussein clash with Al Jazireh when the tenth week of the First Division Soccer Championship kicks off Thursday.

The results of these matches will be very crucial with only one more week remaining for the conclusion of the first leg of the prestigious 12-team competition.

During the past week, Al Wihdat's 16 point lead was narrowed down to one point after their goalless draw against Al Ahli, while Al Hussein trailed closely behind with 15, and Al Faisali, Al Ramtha and Al Jazireh tied with 13 points in the overall standings.

Titleholders Al Faisali who are in third place on goal difference will meet 6th placed newcomers Kufroum, while the last two teams, Al Jeel and Al Karmel, will both be targeting a win to improve their scoring record and standing.

Meanwhile, 9th placed Al Qadisiyah, a top five team last season, will meet 10th placed newcomers Shabab Al Hussein hoping that their new coach will uplift their faltering form, as Al Ahli and Al Arabi, both searching for a half-way position, will clash in another of this week's matches.

Al Hussein are still the best scoring team with 29 goals followed by Al Faisali with only 19, while Al Wihdat remained the only unbeaten team so far,

although they have a low scoring record at 11-2.

On the other hand, Al Karmel and Al Jeel still have the worst scoring record at 4-22, and are also the only teams not to have scored a win so far.

Al Ramtha's Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib became the top scorer of the league with 8 goals after scoring two of his team's goals against Al Qadisiyah.

He is now followed by Al Faisali's Jiryes Tadros and Kufroum's Murad Hassan share third place with 6 goals each.

Only 12 goals were scored during the past week — the lowest number since this year's competition kicked off Aug. 31 — compared to the highest number of 22 in the seventh week.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI  
DON'T PLAY BY SLOGANS—THINK!

Neither vulnerable. South deals.  
NORTH  
♠ 4 2  
♥ 7 6 5  
♦ K Q 4  
♣ J 9 4

WEST  
♠ K 7 5  
♥ 9 7 3  
♦ 8 3 2  
♣ 10 8 3

EAST  
♠ 3  
♥ A K 10 8 4 2  
♦ A J 10  
♣ 7 6 2

SOUTH  
♠ A Q J 10 8 6  
♥ Q  
♦ 7 6 5  
♣ A K 6

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♠ Pass 1NT 2♣  
2♠ Pass 3♠ Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♣. These wonderful bridge maxims are fine for most situations you encounter. However, they are generalizations and there are exceptions to all of them. Consider this hand.

South's spade rebid almost surely promised a six-card suit, so with a maximum no-trump response and three-card support North ventured a raise. South had more than enough to carry on to game.

In the modern style West led low from three cards in partner's suit and East won the king. The old adage says: "Lead through strength up to weakness." If East returns a trump, West can win the king and shift to a diamond, but the ace of that suit will be the third and last

trick for the defenders. As soon as declarer gains the lead, trumps will be drawn and declarer will discard a diamond on the fourth club — and 10 tricks are in the bank.

Now let's suppose East applies logic to the play's trick ten. Obviously, West cannot be counted on for more than one trick, so East has to produce three if the contract is to be set. Since the heart suit has yielded its one and only trick, two must come from diamonds and three is the essence.

At trick two, East must shift to the jack or ten of diamonds, taken in dummy. Now when West gains the lead with the king of spades, West can revert to diamonds and the defenders collect two tricks in the suit to defeat the game.

## Stich, Edberg crash at Paris Open

PARIS (AFP) — Michael Stich and Stefan Edberg crashed Tuesday that there is nothing as an easy ride, in the first round, when they are playing in one of the world's richest tournaments. The players crashed badly in their first matches on the main court inside the walled Bercy Stadium, south east of the city capital.

Stich, the third-seed for the million French Indoor and hungry for points to qualify for next month's ATP World Championships in Frankfurt, made to look less than

any by French newcomer Lionel Roux and surrendered 3-6, 4-6.

Edberg, seeded fifth, once again against rival Petr Korda, going 6-4, 1-6, 4-6 — his fifth in the 1992 French Open — never looked com-

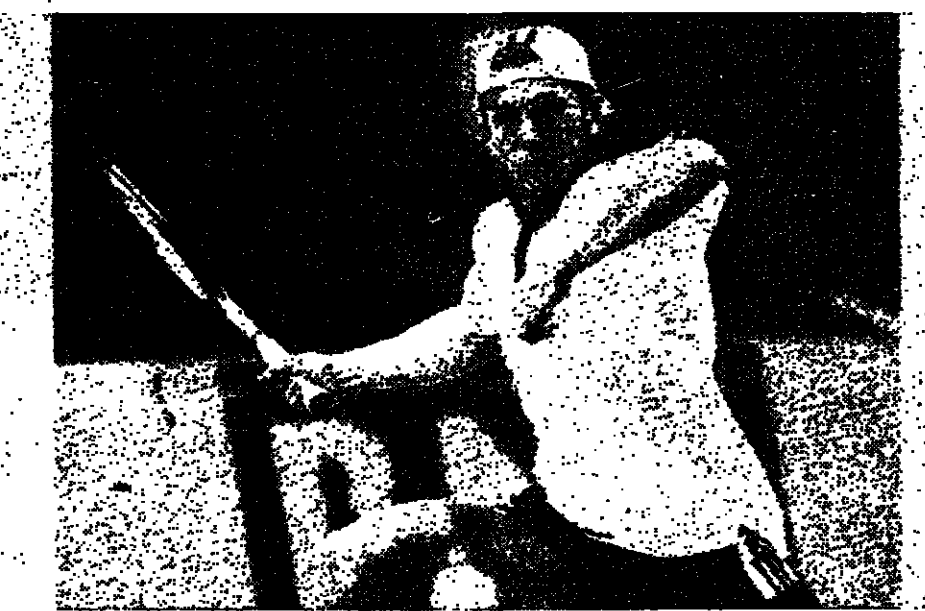
ing against the 21-year-old entry from who, wearing his cap to, froth in Goelner went for his strokes and did no respect for his

ent's status. Stich said Roux, who reached today's match by beating another German Karsten Braasch, had shown few weaknesses.

"He played solid all round, hit the ball hard, and was very quick around the court," he said.

Roux, surprisingly calm after his triumph and the sort of player France's newly-appointed Davis Cup captain Yannick Noah may be looking to for in his quest to restore French success in the competition, said: "Obviously I'm delighted I won, but I didn't throw my racket after the final point. You don't do that in a second round match at Bercy. You do that when you win the tournament."

Edberg, who won the event in 1990, started well but then went off the boil against a player who only recently returned to the tour from a lay-off after suffering hip and groin injuries at Ro-



Frenchman Lionel Roux returns the ball to Germany's Michael Stich during their encounter at the Paris Open (AFP photo)

serving was clearly hampered by the surface, which he said was "slower than expected."

"The first serves still come through pretty quick but you have to play close to the lines to win points."

Stich said Roux, who reached today's match by beating another German Karsten Braasch, had shown few weaknesses.

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Edberg, who won the event in 1990, started well but then went off the boil against a player who only recently returned to the tour from a lay-off after suffering hip and groin injuries at Ro-

land Garros in May. The Swedish player's second serves were too vulnerable to Korda's blistering returns.

Stich and Edberg were not the only favourites to be beaten.

Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, tenth seed and winner of three tournaments since the United States Open, went down in straight-sets to Frenchman Cedric Pioline.

Pioline clearly determined to salvage something after a disastrous season in which he has slumped from tenth to 43rd in the world rankings, notched up a 6-4, 6-4 success.

And Swedish dejection after Edberg's early loss just a few weeks before the Davis Cup final against Russia in St. Petersburg was compensated, up to a point, by another excellent perform-

ance by team-mate Magnus Larsson.

The French Open semi-finalist continued his recent revival by recovering to out-slog Austria's 15th seed Thomas Muster 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 in a two and a half hour marathon.

Eight-seed Andre Agassi, another player hoping to qualify for the ATP finals, had to work hard not to join the exodus of favourites.

The reigning United States Open champion dropped a set and had to work hard to come through to the last sixteen against stubborn Australian Jason Stoltenberg.

Agassi, who is seeded to play world number-one Pete Sampras in the quarter-finals and who needs to reach the semi-finals here to make sure of a place in Frankfurt.

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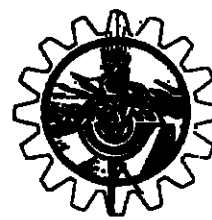
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## Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Arab Potash Company Limited

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#### 1. The Project Description

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- Raising of existing dike 9.
- Raising of existing dike 5 (Optional).

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The contract period will be less than two years and starts approximately April/May 1995 and will be implemented at the same time as other work being carried out by APC.

#### 2. Conditions of Contract.

The conditions of contract are based on Part 1 of the Conditions of Contract for Works of Civil Engineering Construction, Fourth Edition 1987, prepared by the Federation Internationale des Ingenieurs. Conseils (FIDIC) and include Part 2, conditions of particular application. Jordanian law will apply to the contract.

#### 3. Tender Documents.

Tender documents are available from the company main office — Shemisani / Amman from 8/11/1994 till 1/12/1994 against a non refundable payment of JD 700.

Tenderers will be required to submit their offers in three envelopes, the first containing a tender guarantee in the amount of JD 100,000, the second containing details of their experience by completing a separate volume comprising a post qualification questionnaire, and the third containing the financial offer. Any tender not accompanied by a tender guarantee will be considered.

Only tenderers who have demonstrated adequate prior experience of similar works will have the envelopes containing their financial offers opened and evaluated. Tenderers who are deemed to have insufficient experience, will have their financial offers returned unopened.

Closing date for the submission of tenders to the Amman, Shemisani offices of the Arab Potash Company is 12:00 noon on 22 December 1994 and any tenders received after that time will not be considered.

For more information, contact the Civil Works Manager at site:

Tel. 3, 377121, 377122 or 377123.

Fax: 3, 377125 or 377131

Suleiman Hawari  
Managing Director.

شركة البوتاش العربية







## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Rabin questions use of small settlements

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin called into question Wednesday the usefulness of small Israeli settlements on occupied Arab land such as in Hebron which require thousands of troops to protect them. "In Hebron, 80,000-100,000 Palestinians, 450 Israelis," Mr. Rabin told members of the United Jewish Appeal, an international fund-raising organisation. "And to protect them we need three battalions all the time." Mr. Rabin said. An Israeli battalion is made up of about 300 soldiers. "They don't protect us — we have to protect them," Mr. Rabin noted, in a swipe at the frequent claim that the settlements add to Israel's security. "We consider it was a major mistake to disperse settlements of 15, 30, 80 families, that we need now the bulk of our regular army for their protection," he said. More than 120,000 Israelis have settled since 1967 in some 130 settlements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "In the West Bank there are twice as many Israeli soldiers as in Lebanon," he said. According to reports from Lebanon, Israel has about 1,000 troops stationed in its "security zone" in southern Lebanon, although the figure can rise during tense periods. Israel also maintains a Lebanese militia of some 3,000 men.

## Israel ordered to put women into top jobs

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's high court has ordered the government to appoint three women to the boards of two state-run companies in a precedent hailed by women's groups. Israel's Women's Network had petitioned the court based on a 1993 "affirmative action" law under which both sexes must be appropriately represented on the board of government companies "as far as possible." In a written ruling published Wednesday, the court cancelled ministerial appointments of men to two positions on the board of Israel Oil Refineries and one at the Port and Railways Authority. The court noted that the law did not call for quotas of women but said appropriate representation would be equal numbers. Trade and Industry Minister Micha Harish argued he had appointed the best candidates, but the court said women should be appointed provided they were sufficiently qualified. Some 75 senior ministry officials who are women had not even been considered by the ministry. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's advisor on women's issues released a statement "praising" the ruling.

## Immigration to Israel increases

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The number of immigrants arriving in Israel jumped 21 per cent in October compared with the same period of last year, the government announced Wednesday. The increase reversed the negative trend of most of the year and pushed the 10-month total arrivals to 65,200, or three per cent more than for the same period of 1993, the absorption ministry said. Some 7,000 of the 8,100 who came to Israel last month were from the former Soviet Union. More than 500,000 people have emigrated to the Jewish state from the ex-Soviet empire since the Kremlin opened the floodgates in late 1989, although about five per cent have left for a better life elsewhere.

## Netherlands to open office in Jericho

THE HAGUE (AFP) — The Netherlands said Tuesday it would soon open a diplomatic mission in the autonomous town of Jericho in the West Bank. The foreign ministry said the decision stemmed from an increase in Dutch activities in Jericho and also the autonomous Gaza Strip following the implementation of the Palestinian self-rule accord in May. The new mission will coordinate Dutch aid to the Palestinian self-rule areas and promote Dutch commercial interests. Until now these tasks had been the responsibility of the Dutch embassies in Tel Aviv and Cairo, the ministry said.

## Iranian former general released

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian authorities have released a former general and outspoken nationalist who was arrested Monday after having openly criticised the Islamic government, opposition sources said Wednesday. Azzollah Amir-Rahimi, 75, was freed late Tuesday, they said, adding that the general had been "mistreated" during his 24-hour detention. He wrote an open letter to the authorities in September in which he condemned summary executions ordered by revolutionary courts and called for political reforms. He also urged the formation of a "national salvation government." Mr. Rahimi is known for his criticism of the way the government fought the 1980-1988 war with Iraq. He was an outspoken opponent of the former regime and was jailed several times before the Islamic revolution toppled the Shah in 1979. The nationalist opposition has been tolerated but not officially recognised in Iran since the revolution. The Party of the People of Iran, led by Daryush Foruhar, is the main secular nationalist movement.

## Exiled Iranian singer says daughter arrested

NICOSIA (AP) — A celebrated Iranian singer who recently left her country to join an Iranian opposition group said Wednesday authorities had arrested a 41-year-old daughter she left behind in Tehran. The singer, who goes by the single name of Marziyeh, said in a statement that she recently learned that her daughter had been arrested and imprisoned three weeks ago by Iran's ruling clerics. She said her daughter, Hengameh Amini, who is married and has a 7-year-old daughter, "has committed no offence other than her mother leaving the country to help liberate her compatriots and to sing the song of freedom by joining the ranks of" the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, an Iraq-based Iranian opposition group. Marziyeh, whose full name is Ashraf-o-Sadat Mortezaei, arrived in Paris from Tehran in August. She vowed never to return as long as the Muslim clerics ruling Iran remained in power.

## Former Sudan commissioner to stand trial

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A former Sudanese provincial commissioner will stand trial Monday on charges of embezzling public funds while in office, a Khartoum newspaper reported Wednesday. Al Sudan Al Hadith daily said the former commissioner of Al Galabat province in east Sudan, Ali Abdullah Al Nihaila would appear before a special tribunal for allegedly embezzling 37 million Sudanese pounds (\$92,500). Mr. Nihaila was suspended from his position earlier this year pending an investigation. The paper said the investigation committee dropped a related charge against Mr. Nihaila's son but did not elaborate.

## Iran marks anniversary of embassy takeover

NICOSIA (AP) — Waves of demonstrators shouting slogans against the United States protested outside the former U.S. embassy in Tehran Wednesday, marking the 15th anniversary of its takeover by Iranian militants. Tehran Radio said the demonstrators converged on the embassy in downtown Tehran, shouting "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." On Nov. 4, 1979, Iranian revolutionaries stormed the embassy and took 52 Americans hostage for 444 days. Tehran Radio said Tuesday the event "opened a glittering page in our nation's history." The anniversary was being marked earlier to avoid the Muslim holiday on Friday. The radio gave no indication of the size of the crowd, but said "waves" of demonstrators had thronged outside "America's former nest of spies," as the compound is now called. It has been converted into a museum, displaying equipment and documents confiscated from the embassy.

## Lebanon to protest to U.N. over Israeli rejection of 425

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon will protest to the United Nations soon over Israel's rejection of a U.N. resolution calling on it to withdraw from South Lebanon, a government official said here Wednesday.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Tuesday branded non-existent U.N. Resolution 425 of 1978 which calls for a total Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, but he nonetheless outlined conditions for an Israeli pullout.

The Lebanese official, who requested anonymity, told AFP Mr. Rabin's remarks "revealed Israel's intentions."

He said: "A peace agreement could only be achieved after a withdrawal in line with Resolution 425."

"It is absolutely out of the question for us to consider a softer interpretation of this resolution."

Lebanon would protest to the U.N. "in the next few days," he added.

Mr. Rabin set three conditions for an Israeli pullout — satisfactory security arrangements, an association between Israel's Lebanese militia and the official Lebanese army and a gradual implementation of the agreement.

His statement came a day after he described as "interesting" Beirut's offer of a six-month ceasefire in return for a timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi announced Sunday he

was ready to accept an Israeli initiative to set up a joint commission to negotiate a timetable for withdrawal from the 850-square-kilometre "security zone."

Hizbollah guerrillas said they detonated a bomb inside Israel's "security zone" in South Lebanon Wednesday, killing a member of the proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

Security officials confirmed the attack but did not say whether there were any casualties.

The group said the bomb blast took place as a SLA patrol was passing by the village of Bourj.

"The body of a pro-Israeli agent was seen lying on the spot," said the Hizbollah statement.

Tension has been high in South Lebanon for the past five days amid a flare-up of guerrilla attacks that left one Israeli soldier dead and six wounded Saturday, two SLA militiamen wounded Sunday and another SLA member wounded Tuesday.

In video footage that shocked Israel, Hizbollah fighters were shown overturning an Israeli position in Lebanon and planting their flag on the outpost in Saturday's attack.

The army said a number of Israeli soldiers abandoned the post after coming under rocket fire. Mr. Rabin issued a rare public criticism of the

(Continued on page 7)

## Bashir not to enter race for presidency

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudanese military junta leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir has declared that he will not stand in presidential elections due to be held in two years' time at the latest, state television reported.

General Bashir said in an interview he gave an American writer who is preparing a book on Islam and politics, Milton Forster, that he will instead retire, the television said late Tuesday.

Gen. Bashir took power in a bloodless coup in June 1989 against the elected civilian government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi by a 15-member council of army officers which resigned and named the junta leader president of the republic last year.

The junta, backed by Islamic fundamentalists, dissolved parliament and outlawed all political parties, vowing that no such organisations would be allowed in Sudan.

It has opted for a Libyan-style popular congress system in which elections will be held on personal, rather than partisan, basis.

Such congresses have so far been elected at village and district levels and it is planned that assemblies (parliaments) for the 26 states will be elected before March of next year.

The national assembly is to be elected in late 1995 or early 1996, before the elections for the president and his deputy.

Gen. Bashir said in the interview that upon completion of establishing of the country's political system up to the national level, a legislative body would be elected to draw up a permanent constitution based on Islamic Sharia law and Sudanese traditions and customs.

Characteristics of this constitution have already been outlined in decrees issued during the past period, he noted, in obvious reference to Islamic laws currently in

effect.

Gen. Bashir said a current campaign against Sudan's Islamic orientation was not unleashed by followers of other faiths but rather by political opponents, including leftist and sectarian elements of the dissolved opposition parties.

Rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have been fighting successive regimes in Khartoum to end domination by the Islamic north of the mainly Christian, and animist south.

The regime claims it is flexible in implementation of the Sharia.

Though the National Islamic Front (NIF) has officially been banned along with other political parties, senior NIF officials have been appointed to key posts, including ministerial portfolios, while its rank and file have assumed major civil service positions.

Gen. Bashir has said his revolutionary government is ready to take in any person who supports its Islamic orientation regardless of his former political affiliation.

A few members of other dissolved parties have joined the government.

Diplomats in Khartoum said recently that Gen. Bashir had not given a clear indication of whether he would run for president.

Nobody has yet come forward as a possible candidate but political observers said the National Islamic Front, headed by Hassan Al Tourabi, is expected to put up a candidate.

Dr. Tourabi, a former university lecturer, is currently head of the Khartoum-based Popular Arab and Islamic Conference, a pan-Islamic movement, and has said he does not want to run for election.

His deputy in the front, Ali Osman Mohammad Taha who is currently the minister of social planning, may come forward as a candidate.

assistance to the assassins. The trial, expected to last four weeks, is being translated by interpreters into Farsi, since two of the accused speak no French.

The prosecution will present evidence gathered by investigating Magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere implicating the Iranian authorities in organising the murder. The Tehran government has denied any role.

Bakhtiar's three sons, his French first wife and his Iranian second wife were in the courtroom at the start of the trial.

Armed special police cordoned off the court where the trial effectively put the Islamic regime in the dock.

The trial could severely



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS: Divya, a potter's daughter, puts the finishing touches to earthenware lamp cups which her father moulded to be sold in the market for Diwali festival. Diwali, the largest festival in India, started Wednesday (AFP photo)

## Hamas denies directing its operations in occupied territories from Jordan

By Ghadeer Taher

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, on Wednesday denied Israeli charges that its Jordan-based office directs operations against Israeli targets and sends arms to the group in the occupied territories.

Mohammad Nazzari, the representative of Hamas in Jordan, said: "We have nothing to do with organising or funding any operations in the occupied territories."

"We have an information office here and I am only a spokesman," Mr. Nazzari told the Jordan Times Wednesday. "We (Hamas) in Jordan are not involved in arming military operations against Israeli targets or sending instructions of any kind."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reportedly said Tuesday that Hamas ships arms into the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from Egypt and Jordan. This was the first such Israeli accusation since Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty on Oct. 26.

"Hamas weapons come into the territories from Egypt and Jordan," Mr. Rabin reportedly told the Israeli parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee.

A spokesman quoted Mr. Rabin as saying that funds for fundamentalists also come from Jordan as well as Europe and the United States.

A senior military intelligence official, who was not named by the spokesman, told the committee that Hamas had a command centre in Jordan.

"A large part of the orders to attack Israeli targets have

been transmitted by Hamas from Jordan, not by telephone or fax but by messengers," he said.

Mr. Nazzari said Mr. Rabin was trying to apportion the blame for his government's failure to guarantee security.

"The charges against groups outside Palestine is an attempt by Rabin to find a scapegoat for his failure to control his security," said Mr. Nazzari. Israel has been hit with several deadly bomb attacks in the last one month, killing at least 24 people and wounding dozens. All the attacks were claimed by the military wing of Hamas, Izzeddine Al Qassam.

The last time Israel accused Jordan of harbouring "terrorists," Amman took strong action against the Hamas office here, confiscating their spokesmen's passports and declaring the group illegal.

Tension has been rising between the government and the Islamist-led opposition. His Majesty King Hussein, in a speech to deputies last Sunday, warned Islamists and other rejectionists not to disavow the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and not to slander the monarchy over the accord from the pulpits of the mosques.

Officials refused to comment Wednesday on the Israeli allegations, but Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said in an interview with Middle East Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) that there were no Hamas bases in Jordan.

Deputy Abdul Karim Kabariti, president of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, said Wednesday: "The Israeli prime minister

is trying to capitalise on the anti-rejectionist mood, which manifested itself immediately after Friday's incidents (when clashes broke out in Amman mosque) and was reflected by His Majesty's speech to deputies, in order to provoke a strong reaction against the Islamists," Mr. Kabariti said.

"Rabin knows that there are no armed groups in Jordan that plan violent acts. He is trying to create a link between the Islamic movement in Jordan, which rejects violence, and the armed resistance groups in the occupied territories."

"I strongly believe Jordan will not allow itself to be used as a tool in Israel's hand in its war against Hamas," said Mr. Kabariti. "Jordan will prevent any attempt by any group to use Jordanian territory to launch attacks against Israel. This is clear in the peace treaty."

He said Jordan would not risk its democracy to fight Israel's war. The influential deputy said Hamas had a right to have a representative information office here as long as it did not violate any Jordanian laws.

Islamic Action Front Deputy Mohammad Oweideh denied the Israeli allegations, challenging the Israeli government to produce any evidence to support its claim. He said Hamas does not have any military organisation operating outside the occupied territories.

Mr. Oweideh told a news conference Wednesday that the only support Hamas gets from outside the occupied territories is "political and moral."

He said Hamas does not receive any arms from Jordan.

## Iran tells Kuwait foreign forces endangering Gulf

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told Kuwait Wednesday the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf could harm countries in the region.

At a meeting with the new Kuwaiti ambassador here Mr. Rafsanjani said recent "military movements in the Gulf and the continued presence of foreign forces are detrimental to the Gulf countries," in an apparent reference to the U.S. military buildup in the region.

Peace and stability could be guaranteed through regional cooperation, he said. American, British and Gulf Arab reinforcements were rushed to Kuwait after Iraq massed troops near the emirate's border early last

month, threatening to repeat its August 1990 invasion.

A U.S.-led coalition drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in February 1991.

Mr. Rafsanjani also accused foreign "enemies" of trying to "portray Iran as hostile" to the Gulf Arab states in a bid to "justify their ominous aims."

"Their goal is to justify their presence in the region and to sell off their weaponry," Mr. Rafsanjani assured the Gulf Arabs that "Iran pursues reasonable and humanitarian policies in the region and invites all the Persian Gulf countries to be prudent and have friendship and unity."

Washington has dispatched 24 A-10 Thunderbolt attack

aircrafts to Kuwait to deter any Iraqi threat, a U.S. military source said on Wednesday.

"The aircraft are being deployed until there is no longer a need for their presence, they are deployed as a deterrent," the source who did not wish to be identified told Reuters.

Out of the group of 24 aircraft, flying from a base in the Gulf region, 16 arrived in the emirate's Ahmad Al Jaber air base, said the source. The rest were due later on Wednesday.

In Casablanca, the foreign minister of Qatar said Tuesday that Iraq has told him it will recognise Kuwait and its U.N.-demarcated border very soon.

In addition some 20 large department stores, as well as train stations and tourist sites, will be subject to strict security measures for the next month.

But routes around the Palais De Justice, on the Cite island in the heart of Paris, have been diverted.

Police and others fear the return of extremist attacks to the streets of Paris. One former Bakhtiar aide, Manusher Razmara, has said he feared incidents comparable to attacks in 1986 which left 13 people dead.

The three men in court this week are among nine in all who have been charged in connection with the killings. The six others are still on the run, and will be tried in absentia in a separate trial.

## COLUMN

## Gorbachev convicted of slander

MOSCOW (AP) — A court has found former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev guilty of slander after he called a Moscow official corrupt. Mr. Gorbachev called Vladimir Resin, the head of the Moscow City Government Construction Department, a "shining example of a corrupt government official," in an interview with the Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper. A Moscow Municipal Court Thursday fined Mr. Gorbachev one million rubles (\$325) for the comment, and ordered the newspaper to print a denial of the charge, the daily Moskovsky Komsomolets reported. The former Communist Party general secretary failed to appear at the first trial and was fined 30 rubles (a penny). At the second trial, Mr. Gorbachev sent a letter in his place, saying he was quoting material published in another publication, the Novaya Vezhnednevnyaya Gazeta (New Daily Newspaper). Mr. Gorbachev will not pay the fine and plans to appeal the decision, said Georgy Ostroumov, a spokesman for the Gorbachev Foundation in Moscow. Mr. Ostroumov made his comments to the English-language Moscow Tribune Tuesday.

## Ferry stopped because of intoxicated captain

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — An Estonian cargo ferry chartered by the Estline ferry group was stopped off the Stockholm coast overnight because its captain was intoxicated, Swedish police said Wednesday. The Donata, travelling from Stockholm to Tallinn, was forbidden to travel Tuesday night but was permitted to continue on its route Wednesday, according to Swedish maritime authorities. The ferry's pilot anchored the vessel and alerted police shortly after leaving the Stockholm Harbour after noticing that the captain appeared drunk. Police and a doctor were called onboard, although the results of a blood test taken were not released. The Donata is owned by the Estonia Shipping company. Estline had chartered Tuesday's transport, which was to be Estline's last charter with the company. Estline, which faced tough criticism for its handling of the Estonia sinking Sept. 28 in which some 912 people died, is aware that the company's reputation will not improve by Tuesday's incident, management said. The captain's behaviour demonstrated "a complete lack of judgement. Had it been our own crew this never would have happened," Estonia press spokesman and board member Hans Laidva said. "But the Estonia was a completely white boat. That means that not even off duty officers were allowed to drink beer. We had a very strict policy there," he assured.

## Wife-beating case prompts anger

OTTAWA (AFP) — The successful defence of a man who admitted severely beating his wife has prompted federal Justice Minister Allan Rock to promise a review of a controversial Supreme Court ruling. In effect, the Supreme Court ruled that a sufficient degree of drunkenness could be an adequate defence against criminal charges. The Supreme Court, in a 6-3 split, ruled last month that a 72-year-old man who sexually assaulted a disabled woman should have been allowed to present as his defence the argument that he was so drunk at the time that he was insane. That ruling was cited by a judge in Alberta last week to acquit Carl Blair of charges connected with a 1993 attack on his wife.

## Kenya reports 3 gay activists

NAIROBI (AFP) — Kenyan authorities have expelled three foreigners for planning to convene an international homosexuals' conference, immigration officials said Wednesday. The three men, from Australia, the Netherlands and the United States, were Friday given 48 hours to leave the country "by any means possible." Homosexuality is illegal in Kenya.

## 21 di King orders

By a Jordan Times Staff

Residents of the southern Egyptian town of Luxor have been ordered to leave the town and move to a temporary camp after a bomb exploded in the town, killing over 400 people.

## Bomb exploded in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Amman, Jordan, was hit by a bomb explosion in the city center, killing several people and injuring many others.

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